

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LARRY SHEHADEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Shehadey on the occasion of being granted an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Humane Letters from California State University, Fresno. Mr. Shehadey received the degree during graduation ceremonies on May 25, 2002.

Shehadey, a prominent Fresno businessman, and patriarch of Producers Dairy Foods, a well-known and respected Fresno-based business, is well known for his generosity and contributions to the community. The eight-story clock tower of the new Fresno State athletic facility will be named "The Larry A. Shehadey Clock Tower," and the Grand Lobby at the Southeast entrance will be named after Shehadey's late wife, Elayne.

In 1949, Shehadey sold a successful soap business to Safeway Supermarkets and bought a major interest in Producers Dairy Foods. Larry built the company into one of the largest independent family owned milk producers in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Shehadey for his honorary degree bestowed by California State University, Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Shehadey for his support of the Fresno community, and wishing him many more years of continued success.

KATIE WEST: A COWGIRL'S
PORTRAIT OF THE OLD WEST

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to artist and cowgirl Katie West for her work portraying the Old West and for her passion for living the cowgirl lifestyle on the Rocking KT Ranch with her quarter horses and collie dogs. Katie has always strived for perfection and is considered one of the finest pen-and-ink artists in the nation.

Besides her pen-and-ink drawings, Katie has earned a worldwide reputation for her oils on canvas, watercolors and her own unique process called petrography, which is fine line engraving in granite, crystal and solid jade. Her technique allows her to hold more detail in granite than anyone in the world. Katie's depictions of animals, particularly horses, and the Old West has brought her wide acclaim. In fact, others have proclaimed her work to be in form and quality a worthy heir to the great western artistry of Charles Russell, Frederick Remington and Frank Tenney Johnson. In addition, Katie has been nominated to the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Her oil paintings, including "The American Cowboy," "Forever Eternal Red, White and Blue," "God Bless the U.S.A.," and a painting of a real cowboy on the range called "Born in the U.S.A.," evoke strong emotions and recall a simpler time when the lines between good and evil seemed as clearly defined as the difference between a white hat and a black one. Her petriograph engravings also are stirring, including "Comanche," and studies of Clayton Moore as "The Lone Ranger," John Wayne, Gene Autry and Gary Cooper.

Katie also has been a featured artist at a wide-range of art shows and other events across the nation. She has appeared on local and national television shows and her work has been illustrated in magazines from coast to coast. Her art, music and writing have spread joy and happiness to fans young and old all over the world. Collectors of Katie's work include such luminaries and fans of the western tradition as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, jockeys Bill Shoemaker and Gary Stevens, singer Pat Boone and astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the United States Congress for the artistry of Katie West. Her dedication to conveying the strength of spirit and the vigor of the Old West in her artwork serves to preserve and rekindle the romanticism and patriotism that have always helped our nation overcome obstacles and adversity. I can think of no better time to have an artist such as Katie West riding the range for our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 253, on Agreeing to the Journal. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 254, H.R. 4858, To Improve Access to Physicians in Medically Underserved Areas. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 255, H.R. 4679, the Lifetime Consequences for Sex Offenders Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 256, H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 257, H.R. 4846, the Securities and Exchange Commission Authorization Act of 2002. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

IMPROVING ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my support for the bill H.R. 4858, which will extend and expand the J-1 visa waiver program. This legislation is vital for Maine and other states that have difficulties in finding physicians to practice in rural and underserved areas. Workforce shortages threaten access to care for all our citizens, and rural areas in particular face significant obstacles in attracting healthcare professionals. This legislation extends for an additional two years the successful state J-1 visa waiver program.

The ability for states to sponsor foreign physicians began in 1994. Until this authority expired at the end of May, states were able to sponsor 20 physicians a year, allowing them to remain in practice in underserved areas.

Maine's sponsorship of J-1 waiver applicants began in 1997. The State has used close to the maximum number of slots each year. Recently, the State of Maine responded to growing demand by expanding the scope of the waiver program, allowing specialists to apply for J-1 waivers. Additionally, more areas of the state were deemed eligible for such waivers. Consequently, Maine now maximizes its number of available sponsorships. This bill goes the step further to expand the current number of state waivers from 20 to 30, and therefore greatly enhances the ability of my State and many others to meet future needs in underserved areas.

There is some urgency to this matter, because the Department of Agriculture has suspended its processing of J-1 waiver applications. Therefore, this state waiver ability remains the only route left to ensure these primary and specialty physicians remain in underserved areas.

As a Member of the bipartisan House Rural Health Care Coalition, I've been involved in efforts to maintain the current J-1 visa waiver process. This particular waiver program is not a long-term solution to healthcare workforce shortages, but it is providing valuable resources right now to underserved areas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JERRY MORAN for introducing this legislation, and encourage all my colleagues to support H.R. 4858.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING DEBORAH A. CHAMBERS, CRNA, MHSA PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding resident of South Carolina, Deborah A. Chambers. Ms. Chambers will soon complete her year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that one of South Carolina's own was tapped as the 2001–2002 president of this prestigious national organization.

The AANA is the professional association that represents over 28,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Founded in 1931, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists is the professional association representing CRNAs nationwide. As you may know, CRNAs administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia provider in over two-thirds of rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization capabilities. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; ambulatory surgical centers and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

Debbie has been a nurse anesthetist since 1981. She received both her anesthesia training and Masters of Health Service Administration at the Medical University of South Carolina, in Charleston, SC. She has been a solo practitioner since 1993 at the Microsurgery Center in Anderson, SC, as well as in both Greenville Memorial Medical Center and Saint Francis Bon Secours Hospital System in Greenville, SC. In addition to her role as a solo practitioner, she was the Clinical Coordinator at the Medical University of South Carolina School of Nurse Anesthesia at Greenville Memorial Medical Center from 1988–2000. Even with her demanding schedule as a practicing nurse anesthetist and AANA president, Debbie has continued to be active as a CRNA representative for pharmaceutical advisory panels such as Pharmacia and Glaxo Smith Kline since 2001 in order to advance the practice of anesthesia.

Debbie has held various leadership positions in the AANA as regional director, vice president, and president-elect before becoming the national president of the AANA in 2001. Ms. Chambers has actively served within the SC Association of Nurse Anesthetist as a District Representative on the board of directors and then in 1994 as state president. Since 1994, Debbie has taken her experience and knowledge from the work place and her AANA leadership roles to lecture on political and academic anesthesia related topics before different professional groups and societies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing Ms. Deborah A. Chambers, CRNA, MHSA, for her notable career and outstanding achievements. Congratulations Debbie.

STATEMENT COMMEMORATING THE PASSING OF AMVETS FOUNDING MEMBER ALBERT C. GEREMIA

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the recent passing of a former constituent of Rhode Island's Second District, Albert C. Geremia, native and longtime resident of the City of Providence. Mr. Geremia passed away on June 4th at Hickory House Nursing Home in Honeybrook, Pennsylvania. Mr. Geremia was a Navy veteran of World War II and had a long and distinguished career in management for two Providence firms. As a Navy veteran, Mr. Geremia was a founding member of the Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization, AMVETS, of which Mr. Geremia was the last surviving founder.

Mr. Geremia was one of eighteen individuals who began AMVETS. He worked to secure its Congressional charter and to establish an office in Washington, DC. For his efforts, AMVETS awarded him the organization's "Ray Sawyer Award" at their 1952 National Convention. Since its founding in 1944 in Kansas City, AMVETS has worked tirelessly on behalf of America's veterans and the community at large. Veterans across the nation owe men like Albert Geremia a debt of gratitude for all they have done to keep and protect those benefits promised to our veterans.

Our nation can never have too many men the caliber of Albert Geremia. By helping to found AMVETS, he strove for something larger than himself. A man should not be remembered for the wealth and possessions he earned in life, but rather, for what sort of man he was and what he did to make the world a better place.

Mr. Geremia is survived by his wife, Anne, a daughter, Linda, and son, Paul. I offer them my deepest condolences at this time of great loss, and I hope they will take great comfort in knowing how fondly Albert will be remembered by those whose lives he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, due to commitments in my home state of Michigan, I was unable to cast votes on Monday, June 24. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall 249, on agreeing to H.R. 3937; "yea" on rollcall 250, on agreeing to H.R. 3786; "yea" on rollcall 251, on agreeing to H.R. 3971; and "yea" on rollcall 252, on agreeing to H.J. Res. 95.

HONORING DR. WALTER L. BUSTER, Ed.D.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Walter Buster upon his retirement as Superintendent of Clovis Unified School District. Dr. Buster was honored at a dinner among his colleagues, friends, and family.

Dr. Buster has dedicated his life to education and has served many communities throughout California. Walter's colleagues agree, regardless of his position, he contributes vision, leadership, and ingenuity to his team. He has orchestrated many programs in the Clovis Unified School District in the seven years he has been there. Four of his top programs illustrate his unique ability to visualize current needs with respect for the future. He implemented "Laptops for Learners," a joint venture with Microsoft and Toshiba to supply all students with laptops to perform their daily classroom activities. Dr. Buster saw another of his visions come to fruition with the development of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology. The center will provide up to 1,800 11th and 12th grade students with advanced project-based training in 12 different technology based laboratory environments. Walter realizes the importance of reading to students, and put into action yet another program, called "Community of Readers." Volunteers from the community dedicate one hour per week to read with the students. Always keeping in mind the importance of being an influential citizen within the community, Dr. Buster started "Character Counts!" a program that teaches students six core principles: responsibility, respect, fairness, caring, citizenship, and trustworthiness.

Dr. Buster's contributions to the Clovis education system are obvious, but he has also made a tremendous impact on the community. He serves on many state and local education and business committees. The State Board of Education recently appointed Dr. Buster to the WestEd Board of Directors, a non-profit research, development and service agency dedicated to improving education and other opportunities for children, youth and adults.

AN AMERICAN COWBOY LEGEND:
BEN COOPER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the voluminous and noteworthy acting career of Ben Cooper, a performer whose work in the Western genre has informed and entertained generations of youngsters about the history and the myths of the Old West. Many fans may recognize that Ben has always had a special place in his heart for the Western, but perhaps not everyone knows that he met his wife, Pamela, while working on the "Wagon Train" series with Ward Bond.

While Ben is perhaps best known for his role in the non-western drama, "The Rose

Tattoo," he made his mark in many terrific Westerns, including "Johnny Guitar," with Joan Crawford and Sterling Hayden. He also had prominent roles in "Jubilee Trail," "The Last Command," "Outlaw's Son," and as Johnny Shattuck in "Duel at Apache Wells." In 1965, Ben starred with Audie Murphy in "Gunfight at Comanche Creek" and "Arizona Raiders."

Before moving to Hollywood, Ben was already an extremely successful performer with 3,200 radio broadcasts and 250 live television shows under his belt. His first film credit was for his work in the Republic Studios film, "The Thunderbirds." While the bulk of Ben's big-screen work was in the 1950s and 1960s, his career has covered more than fifty years, including two 1971 Westerns, "One More Train to Rob" and "Support Your Local Gunfighter," in which he played Colorado Magee. Over the years, Ben appeared in various movies and had many guest appearances on hit television shows, including "Kung Fu: The Legend Continues," "The Fall Guy," "Bonanza," and "The Rifleman." He also had a longrunning part in "The Misadventures of Sheriff Lobo" with Claude Akins from 1979 to 1981.

In the 1960s, Ben formed Celebrity Speakers, a group that booked actors on the lecture circuit. Ben's belief that the magnificent and hard-working character actors cast as sidekicks, saddle tramps, bank robbers and in other essential supporting roles were equally capable of acting as goodwill ambassadors for Hollywood has given us all a better understanding of film-making.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Ben Cooper for exhibiting the true spirit of the American cowboy-hero. Whether Ben wore a white or a black Stetson, his characters were memorable and we should tip our collective hats to Ben Cooper, another legendary hero of the Old West.

TRIBUTE TO NADINE MILFORD,
NEW MEXICO MADD STATE CHAIR

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding New Mexican, my friend, Nadine Milford. On June 30, after a successful three-year term, Nadine will step down as the Mothers Against Drunk Driving State Chair. I will take this time to pay tribute to Nadine for her efforts to eliminate the scourge of drunken driving and to improve the lives of countless New Mexicans.

When tragedy strikes, we can do one of two things. We can either allow it to defeat us or we can use the experience to empower us to become an effective advocate for change.

People living in New Mexico in 1992 will never forget that December. What started out as an ordinary holiday season was soon changed into one of devastating heartbreak. It was Christmas Eve and there were pockets of snow across the country. There was a sense of electricity in the air as there usually is during the holidays. At one home in Albuquerque, Bob and Nadine Milford were especially excited about spending the holiday with their children and grandchildren. On Christmas Eve, 1992, gifts were waiting under the Milford's

Christmas tree—gifts that never were to be opened.

Across town on that fateful night, Paul and Melanie Cravens picked up Melanie's three daughters—Kandyce, Erin and Kacee Woodard—at their father's west-side Albuquerque home. They decided to go see the lights from Nine Mile Hill, west of the city on Interstate 40. But before they topped the hill, they were struck by a pickup driving down the wrong side of the highway.

Melanie and the three girls were killed instantly. Paul Cravens somehow survived, as did the driver of the pickup. Blood tests later showed that the driver was well over the legal alcohol limit. Mr. Speaker, I will not go into the legal debacle that ensued on this case for the next several years, other than to say it was painful and finally created the traction necessary for stronger drunk driving laws.

New Mexicans were inconsolable that Christmas Eve when the local news began reporting what had occurred. Then they got mad. Our citizens demanded action to combat the state's DWI problem—and they got it.

I have been fortunate enough to be a firsthand witness to Nadine's many accomplishments. At the time, I was proudly serving as the Attorney General of New Mexico. Earlier that year, I had appointed a DWI Task Force to study what our state could do to fight drunk driving. We issued our report to the State Legislature as they convened in January.

Throughout the next few years, we worked to lower the legal blood-alcohol limit, toughened penalties for drunk driving and set aside millions of dollars to fund local anti-DWI efforts. The state also began widespread use of sobriety checkpoints and passed a "zero tolerance" law that strips minors of their licenses when they are caught drinking and driving.

Throughout all of this, there was one person in the spotlight who became the focal point of this crusade, and that was Nadine. She could have sunk under the depression that engulfed her. Instead, she leaned on her deep faith and the love of her family and seemingly overnight transformed herself into the new face of DWI reform. Nadine could never have imagined that she would one day be tapped to lead such a worthy fight. Ultimately, I cannot think of anyone better to have done it.

When Nadine was selected as the Mothers Against Drunk Driving State Chair in 1999, she was totally devoted to fighting for MADD's mission to stop drunk-driving. She has also comforted countless numbers of families who have been affected by a drunk driving death. Being so modest, I doubt that Nadine even realizes the positive impact that she has had on New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I have touched only on a small list of Nadine's many personal and professional accomplishments. Vera Nadine Fuchs Milford was born in Los Angeles, California and has resided in New Mexico since 1961. Her husband, Robert, still owns Bobby Joe's Auto Sales. In addition to Melanie, she has four other children—Terrell, Celeste, Pauline and Lance. After graduating from Victory Bible College, Nadine taught school for a time. Of everything she has done, I know how proud she is of her family. She has been a wonderful wife and mother.

New Mexicans feel as though they know Nadine because they have shared so much of her grief over the years. Nadine's motto is "persistence wears resistance." Without a

doubt, she has lived this motto throughout the years that have passed since Christmas Eve, 1992. She has stood tall and is truly a hero to many.

Much of my admiration for Nadine Milford stems from her enduring commitment to fighting the good fight. Her values are reflected not only in the way she lives her life, but also in her intelligence and honesty. She will undoubtedly be missed at MADD, but her legacy will endure, and she will never stop advocating for the elimination of drunk driving.

Nadine, I wish you well in whatever future endeavors you pursue.

VETERANS' BENEFITS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on an issue that is very important to our nation's veterans. If you were to ask Americans if they knew that their veterans were being denied benefits to which they earned in an effort to save money, there would be outrage. Well Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say that that is exactly what has been occurring for many years.

Today, veterans who served our country and retire after 20 years but endure a service-connected disability, have their disability benefits offset dollar-for-dollar by a reduction in their retirement pay. This unfair practice is a disgrace for those who selflessly served our country and sacrificed so much on our behalf. These offset dollars are taken away from veterans seeking to make a better life, send children through college or have an opportunity to spend time with grandchildren.

Well Mr. Speaker, there is good news. After many years of trying to correct this problem, I am very proud that my committee, the House Armed Services Committee, included a provision granting concurrent receipt for our most severely disabled retirees in H.R. 4546, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003. This provision provides \$5.8 billion to phase in, over a five-year period, an elimination of the concurrent receipt offset for disabled retirees with a disability rating of 60 percent or greater. Though the offset is not eliminated completely for all disabled veterans, it is a first step. This measure passed the House on May 9, 2002, by a vote of 359–58.

Mr. Speaker, there is still more work to be done. It is my understanding that, like the House, the Senate has included a concurrent receipt provision in their authorization bill and I plan on working actively with them on this issue when this bill is brought to conference. Our veterans earn their retired pay by committing themselves to the defense of our country and I believe there is no better way to honor America than to give our nation's veterans all the benefits to which they are entitled.

CONGRATULATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TRACEY ALLNUTT ON WINNING THE 13TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winners of the Congressional Arts Competition—particularly to congratulate Tracey Allnutt of Sarasota Florida, a senior at Riverview High School. Next year she will be attending the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota in pursuit of a degree in art history.

A panel of judges from my congressional district evaluated the contestants' work and from this pool of contestants Tracey's was selected as the winner. Her work of art symbolizes the rising and enduring faith and patriotism of America's youth in the wake of the events of September 11th. It is fitting that this artwork will be displayed in our nation's Capitol.

I would like to use this time to honor Tracey and the other winners of the Congressional Arts Competition and encourage the youth of our nation to continue their patriotic enterprises and artistic endeavors.

COMMENDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROOFING PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN REBUILDING OF PENTAGON

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 424 Commending the Patriotic Contributions of Roofing Professionals Involved in the Rebuilding of the Pentagon.

First, I want to thank Mr. MANZULLO for introducing this resolution and bringing it to the floor. Several months ago, I gave a one minute speech recognizing the role small roofing contracting companies have played in rebuilding over an acre of the Pentagon's roof, and these efforts are certainly worthy of continued mention.

What I find most moving about this volunteer effort, is how deeply committed these roofing professionals are. Men and women have traveled from all over the U.S. to help put a roof back on the Pentagon. There are numerous stories about how they kept working through Thanksgiving and Christmas to stay on an ambitious schedule.

These men and women felt compelled to do this because to them, this is how we win, this is how we beat the terrorists. And they're right. Whether they have donated supplies, spent time at the site working, or given money, these individuals and companies should be proud of their contribution towards healing our nation.

In addition, I would also like to thank the Department of Defense for working with the National Roofing Contractors' Association to make this volunteer effort so successful.

HONORING DAN MALCOLM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dan Malcolm, editor of American Vineyard, on the 10th anniversary of his magazine's publication.

Dan has been the patron of American Vineyard through its ten years and he has every reason to be proud of everything the magazine has accomplished. In 1993, the magazine became the highest grower circulated grape publication in the country. Then, in 1994, American Vineyard journeyed to Mexico, and the growers were both impressed by what they saw and encouraged to compete with the growers south of the border. The magazine hosted its first grape expo in Caruthers in 1996 and was pleasantly surprised by the amount of support received, over a thousand growers attended. In 1998, Dan Malcolm was honored with the Viticulture & Enology Research Center's Grape Day Industry Award. American Vineyard published their biggest issue in 2001 and the magazine is still going strong.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dan Malcolm for his vision and unending pursuit of his ambitions. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his contribution to agriculture and the community and wishing him and his family continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 249, 250, 251, and 252. I was regrettably absent from the chamber on Monday, June 24, 2002 during rollcall votes 249, 250, 251 and 252. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all four votes.

TRIBUTE TO MITCH KEHETIAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an articulate and well-respected voice in local journalism, Mitch Kehetian, as he is honored by the Metro Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Kehetian has served the public for almost fifty years as a reporter and editor of community newspapers. In his early twenties he went to work as a reporter for the Detroit Times. He brought his reporting skills to Macomb County, Michigan at the Mount Clemens Monitor-Leader. The Monitor-Leader became the Macomb Daily and Mr. Kehetian rose through the ranks to his current position as Editorial Page Editor.

Mr. Kehetian's work can be summarized with three words: community, responsibility,

and passion. He has editorialized about the widest range of issues, always using his straightforward, commonsense approach to make a clear and concise point. He has written about a variety of local issues, from weighing in on a controversial community issue, to honoring a young person or community activist. He has written about regional issues always paying special attention to the future of the City of Detroit, about issues impacting our entire State and vital national issues including domestic policy, politics and international affairs. He has opined passionately about human rights, highlighting the plight of the Iraqi people under Saddam Hussein, the children of Afghanistan, the conflict in the Middle East, and the longstanding refusal by Turkey to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

In his work, especially the latter editorials, you can see an image of Mitch Kehetian himself. On April 29, 2002, Mr. Kehetian wrote, "Through the years, I've written reports about my journey to historical, Turkish-occupied Armenia in search of my Armenian roots. I found that the homeland of my ancestors lacks historical markers to tell the curious that for 3,000 years Armenians lived in what today is eastern Turkey. Through the years I've been repeatedly asked why people of Armenian heritage can't forget what happened in 1915–20, especially those of my generation who weren't even born then. I cannot forget. As a child growing up in southwest Detroit's ethnic neighborhood, I had only one grandparent, one aunt, three uncles and a handful of cousins. All the others were murdered in the Turkish genocide of the Armenian people. . . . This American of Armenian heritage cannot forget."

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work in the same communities as Mitch Kehetian and to observe his work. He has been a voice for elevating the role of Macomb County and its place in the State of Michigan. Today, I join the residents of Macomb County, and his colleagues in the journalism profession, in saluting his distinguished career, thanking him for his years of service, and encouraging him to keep those editorials coming.

TURKEY NATO AND AFGHAN PEACEKEEPING

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan was handed over to Turkish military forces after a successful six months, under the command of British forces.

As the Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee, I want to first congratulate and commend the British forces for the excellent work they did to establish an atmosphere of calm and security at the critical time in which the people of Afghanistan were consolidating their political and economic future. The Brits are owed a great deal of thanks.

The arrival of the Turkish command marks a new period for the ISAF operation, for the new government of Afghanistan and for Turkey itself. The leadership of Turkey, a predominantly Muslim state sends a clear message that the international campaign against

terrorism does not have anything to do with Islam as a religion and reinforces the effort we have been trying to make that the United States has Muslim allies in this effort. For Turkey, taking command of ISAF is an acknowledgment of Turkey's important position in that region and the role it can play in the Muslim world. It is also a signal of the important prestige Turkey has accumulated both here in the United States and in the West. The government in Ankara should be commended for its willingness to take on this critically important role. We congratulate Turkey and wish their military contingent the best of success.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not point out for commendation all of the other nations whose military forces are currently serving in Afghanistan. ISAF does have some 5,000 troops serving in Afghanistan and they all deserve our thanks and continued support. I think it is also important to note that the majority of the nineteen countries who have contributed forces to ISAF are not only European, but are from our NATO partners or NATO candidate countries. I believe this is an important point that is often overlooked by those who have criticized Alliances such as NATO for not being willing or capable of conducting missions abroad. The Afghanistan campaign was not a NATO mission but the fact that so many of our NATO partners have sent troops there is a testament to the importance of the Alliance and why we in this country should continue to strongly support NATO. Consider where we would be today if NATO was no longer relevant to our security needs. Whose 5,000 troops would be patrolling the streets of Kabul and ensuring the peaceful transition of that country.

So, again we salute the British forces for a job well done. We congratulate and welcome the Turkish leadership of ISAF and we thank our NATO allies and European friends for their continued support in Afghanistan and in the campaign against global terror.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4931, RE-
TIREDMENT SAVINGS SECURITY
ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 21, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 4931, the Republicans' so-called Retirement Security Savings Act.

Like every other tax break the Republican leadership has brought to the floor lately, this bill is more about their political pandering than our priorities. But, I refuse to play games with the hard-earned pensions of working Americans while Republicans line the pockets of their wealthy contributors.

We ought to bring a pension bill to the floor that encourages saving and increases employee participation in pension plans. Unfortunately, the Republican bill does little to help average Americans save for retirement. It simply benefits the wealthiest Americans. Forty-two percent of the tax breaks proposed by the Republicans would go to the richest five percent of taxpayers.

Meanwhile, if you are an average American with a pension or retirement account, the Re-

publican plan does nothing to help you build upon that savings. Republicans are obviously content with the fact that most Americans have only about \$12,000 put away for retirement. I'm sure an Arthur Andersen accountant might be able to convince someone that \$12,000 is sufficient. But, to think the Republicans would expect that most Americans would believe it just shows how out of touch they are.

I support the Democratic plan for retirement security. It puts money where our mouth is when we say we want Americans to save. It rewards them for putting money away for their retirement by giving them a \$1,000 tax credit if they contribute to an employer-sponsored pension plan or an IRA.

Republicans supported giving lower and middle-income families this credit in the past. They included it in last year's tax bill. But, for some reason they won't support it today. Why not?

Maybe Republicans don't think it's necessary because they've already passed their huge tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans? Maybe they've just gotten too close with their corporate donors to appreciate the struggles many Americans face in building a secure retirement?

Whatever the answer may be, it is clear Republicans haven't learned anything from the Enron fiasco. This bill's second, major flaw is that does nothing to enforce corporate accountability when it comes to pensions. It doesn't prevent huge scams like Enron from being carried out on the backs of employees—it makes it easier. We shouldn't allow those that work hard for their retirement to be ripped off while a handful of greedy executives walk away with millions.

We should be on this floor today making sure that Enron never happens again. I support the Democratic plan because it will lock in real pension protection and ensure that workers are fairly compensated when companies fail. But, instead, we're stuck having to vote on a Republican bill that does nothing but reward corporate greed at the expense of millions of hard-working Americans.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for America's families, support the sensible Democratic plan for retirement security, and vote down the Republican bill.

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM
PROTECTION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to express my concerns on strengthening and preserving our nation's Social Security system.

We are here today to discuss, H.R. 4070, The Social Security Programs Protection Act. However, I have grave concerns about what we are NOT discussing—namely, privatization, one of the biggest threats facing the Social Security Program today.

Last week, Democrats filed a discharge petition to demand a public debate on privatization. Democrats think the public has a right to know about the true effects of privatization.

Under the Republican Privatization Plan, we would see cuts in guaranteed benefits, massive raids on the Social Security Trust Funds, and the threat that privatization poses to the ability of the system to pay benefits to the baby-boomer generation.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a responsibility to our next generation to ensure that Social Security will be there for them. Social Security is more than a program, it is a promise. The Republican Leadership is refusing to bring their privatization bills to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, we have missed our mission of strengthening Social Security. We have missed our opportunity to strike, a true course consistent with the great traditions in this country of meeting the challenges of each generation. We can only live up to our responsibilities by preserving and strengthening our Social Security system. American families work hard to pay into the system, and they should be able to rely on Social Security when they retire.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to live up to the responsibility that has been bestowed upon us and to strengthen and preserve our Social Security system.

Thank you, I yield the remainder of my time.

CHILD OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY
PREVENTION ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002. I strongly support the goal of this legislation, which is to protect children from sexual exploitation.

This legislation is in response to the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Ashcroft v. The Free Speech Coalition*, which struck down portions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act that made it illegal to create, distribute or possess "virtual" child pornography produced by means other than using real children, such as using adult actors who look like children or through computer generated images.

In an effort to pass constitutional muster, this bill prohibits the creation, distribution or possession of computer generated images that appear "virtually indistinguishable" from that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. We should not allow technological advances to hamper law enforcement's ability to prosecute individuals for child pornography. Law enforcement agencies must have all necessary tools to eliminate sexual exploitation of innocent children.

However, I have concerns about how this legislation affects free speech protections under the First Amendment. H.R. 4623 criminalizes speech that not only is not obscene, but that has redeeming literary, artistic, or other social value. This includes therapists and academic researchers who use computer-generated images in their research, and filmmakers who create explicit anti-child abuse documentaries.

While I am hopeful that this legislation will pass constitutional scrutiny we must also ensure that we do not infringe upon the First

Amendment. I believe we must strive to eliminate child pornography, a despicable exploitation of our children, while at the same time respecting free speech.

**LEHIGH VALLEY HERO—
STEPHANIE McKENNA**

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share my Report from Pennsylvania for my colleagues and the American people.

All across Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District there are some amazing people who do good things to make our communities a better place. These are individuals of all ages who truly make a difference and help others.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes for their good deeds and efforts.

Today, I would like to recognize Bethlehem resident Stephanie McKenna as a Lehigh Valley Hero. She is working hard to make a difference in her community.

Stephanie, a single mother of three and guardian of two others had always thought of ways to spend more time with her children. A year ago, she quit her high powered Manhattan job to put in motion the idea she had for a way to be more in touch with her children while helping other children in the community. This idea was called Teen Destiny, a one-year residential program for teenage boys who are troubled, but haven't yet crossed into the juvenile detention system.

This program, which could start as early as September is run by a seven-member board of directors and has a \$1.2 million agreement of sale for a 189-acre farm in Upper Mount Bethel Township.

This working farm would be the temporary home for teenage boys. After school and on weekends, the boys would learn to cook, clean and do laundry through the 4-H, and try their hand at farming. Stephanie hopes that by taking the teenagers into a new environment, giving them close supervision and lots of attention, she and a staff of professional counselors and tutors can turn the teenagers around before they succumb to alcohol, drugs or gangs.

Stephanie McKenna is selflessly working to make a difference in the lives of many teenage boys in need of direction, and therefore she is a Lehigh Valley Hero in my book.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE PACIFIC
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL
HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOOLS
COUNCIL INAUGURATION**

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a recent speech given by a distinguished former Member of this body, Former Congressman Lester L.

Wolff before an Assembly of Asian educators on May 20th in New York. Congressman Wolff served as Chairman of the House Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee and is now Chairman of the Pacific Community Institute.

**INAUGURATION OF THE PACIFIC AMERICAN
INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOOLS
COUNCIL**

With a new look and focus after two decades of service, the Pacific Community Institute (PCI), continues to work towards its purpose of creating a community of interests in the Pacific Rim. With those goals in mind, I am proud to announce today the inauguration of the Pacific American International Higher Education Schools Council.

Because the United States was originally an off-shoot of Europe, there is a historical tendency to think of the U.S. as an Atlantic nation only. However, the United States has historically been involved in the Pacific since 1784, its Pacific Coast is longer than the Atlantic Coast, and the State of Hawaii is in the Pacific. The commitment of the United States to the Pacific has also been sealed in active diplomacy and several wars for freedom and democracy.

The basic principle of the Pacific Community Institute (PCI) is to promote community, based upon respect for individuals and the traditions of its members. Building on ties of trade and kinship, which have long existed among the countries of the Pacific Rim, PCI seeks to facilitate interaction and cooperation toward the solution of common problems. PCI aims to obviate such problems by enabling the nations of the Pacific Rim to explore together, at the working level, means to contemporary activities, and new, creative solutions to the common concerns. PCI is supplementary and supportive without competing with existing organizations.

PCI believes that true community may be facilitated by the revolution in communication and information technology, but that it must be created by people in concert, in person. For that reason, PCI remains committed to facilitating face-to-face interaction as significant step toward building a climate of cooperation. The advent of the World Wide Web has made the task of the PCI simpler in some respects, by permitting the movement of information in a more efficient manner. Yet without a sense of the human being sending an e-mail, or the organization maintaining a website, the official, the executive, or the academic who may be seeking a solution remains uncertain and unconvinced.

The Pacific Community Institute seeks today to promote international education based on the concept that both sides of the Pacific can learn from each other. PCI is currently working to develop a graduate level, Western-style curriculum in business. The role of the PCI is to oversee the content of the program, curriculum, the credentials of the instructors, and performance of graduates. In general, PCI fosters the idea of appropriate conferences designed to enhance the sort of personal contact that makes an e-mail message a genuine commodity, and not a nuisance.

The Pacific Community Institute, in its role to improve inter-relationships, understanding, and economic well-being within the nations of the Pacific region, is in the process of organizing such an organization: The Pacific American International Higher Education Schools Council. The Council, composed of an elite professional group of Academicians, will create and oversee an MBA program to meet the high standards of the International Community and the special needs of the educational requirements of young people residing in the Pacific Rim.

Selected to head the Council is Dr. Wayne Patterson who has served as Dean in Residence of the National Council of Graduate Schools. Invitations to participate in the Council have been extended to: Dr. Orlando L. Taylor, Dean of Graduate Schools at Howard University, former Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools; Dr. Marcia Welsh, Provost and V.P., Academic Affairs, Adelphi University; Dr. Sung Lee, former Vice Provost, Michigan Tech, now executive at Carnegie Mellon; Dr. Thomas Maresh, former Dean of the Graduate School at Oregon State University; Dr. J. Kent Morrison, President at Walden University; Dr. Robert Ringold, Provost at Purdue University; Dr. Robert Rudd, former Dean of School of Business at Charleston College and have met with a strong positive response.

The Pacific American University was founded in 2002, as a division of the Northern Institute of Business Management, an affiliate of The Pacific Community Institute, Inc., in order to bring the highest quality of American-developed higher education to students in China and other Pacific region countries. The initial degree offering by the Pacific American University is the Master of Business Administration. The curriculum is designed to be aligned with many MBA programs in the United States.

The Pacific American University is a research-oriented private university dedicated to providing educational experiences of exceptional quality, based on the traditions of American higher education, to students of high academic potential in China and in other countries throughout the Pacific region. Further, the University is dedicated to attracting and sustaining a cadre of faculty who are, through their teaching and research, committed to the development of distinguished and compassionate graduates and to the quest for solutions to human and social problems.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT
OF THE VICTIMS OF TORTURE**

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning the use of torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment wherever they occur—in the United States and other countries. As the United States has become a safe haven for hundreds of thousands of torture victims, the resolution also expresses support for the victims of these heinous acts. I am pleased that I am joined by my colleagues, Representatives STENY HOYER, BEN CARDIN, and ALCEE HASTINGS, as original cosponsors of the measure. The Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, is introducing an identical resolution in the Senate.

Torture remains the weapon of choice of oppressive regimes. In the worst cases, it is systematically used to silence political opposition, punish religious minorities, and target those who are ethnically or racially different from those in power.

It is estimated that some 500,000 torture survivors live in this country alone, most of whom came here as refugees. The debilitating

effects of torture often last a lifetime and require substantial medical, psychological and other treatment. Although they are aided by 34 centers in 19 states, the needs of the victims are extensive. I will continue to support funding for torture treatment centers in the United States, as well as foreign treatment centers funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and multilateral efforts supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend the non-governmental organizations which seek to document this abuse and hold perpetrators accountable.

At the same time, I will be working to ensure that the United States continues to play a leadership role in the battle against torture by signaling our unwavering condemnation of this egregious practice. It is particularly important that we send that message now, when irresponsible voices are suggesting that torture may be a necessary tool against terror. Torture creates terror. That is its purpose, and it makes no sense to wage war to defend our great democratic republic and respect for the rule of law and use methods that denigrate the very values we seek to protect. Torture is unconstitutional, barred by the laws of the United States and the laws of all civilized nations.

The resolution that Sen. CAMPBELL and I are introducing underscores that message. It recognizes the United Nations International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture—June 26 each year—and encourages the training of law enforcement personnel who are involved in the custody, interrogation, or treatment of any individual who is arrested, detained, or imprisoned, with the hope of preventing the use of this practice. The resolution also calls on the Secretary of State to seek, at relevant international fora, the adoption of an agreement to treat confessions and other evidence obtained through torture or other forms of cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment, as inadmissible in any legal proceeding; and to prohibit, in law and in practice, incommunicado detention of prisoners.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and giving it timely consideration.

POLICE SECURITY PROTECTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to help America's law enforcement officers by introducing the Police Security Protection Act. This legislation provides police officers a tax credit for the purchase of armored vests.

As recent events have reminded us, professional law enforcement officers put their lives on the line each and every day. Reducing the tax liability of law enforcement officers so they can afford armored vests is one of the best ways Congress can help and encourage these brave men and women. After all, an armored vest could literally make the difference between life or death for a police officer. I hope my colleagues will join me in helping our nation's law enforcement officers by cosponsoring the Police Security Protection Act.

MOROCCO'S ACTIVE ROLE IN THE WAR AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in the past 2 weeks, both the Washington Post and The New York Times have devoted page-one stories to the extraordinary support and cooperation Morocco has been providing the United States in the war against terrorism. At a time when many in the media and elsewhere have been questioning whether the resolve of U.S. allies and friends has been slackening, Morocco's actions take on even greater significance.

Specifically, these stories refer to the arrests, announced on June 10, of three Saudi nationals who are believed to be part of the al Qaeda network. According to the Washington Post, June 16, 2002, which cited senior Moroccan officials, these men "have told interrogators that they escaped from Afghanistan and came to Morocco on a mission to use bomb-laden speedboats for suicide attacks on U.S. and British warships in the Strait of Gibraltar." Moreover, they have provided "what officials describe as a fuller understanding of al Qaeda's strategy since its expulsion from Afghanistan . . ."

Days later, on June 19, Moroccan authorities revealed they had taken into custody another Saudi national—this one a senior operative who reputedly ran several of Osama bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan, helped direct the evacuation of al Qaeda from Afghanistan, and, in the words of the BBC, June 19, 2002, is "central to al Qaeda's international recruiting network . . ." This individual is said to be a close associate of Abu Zubaydah, the suspected al Qaeda operations chief who was apprehended in Pakistan and who has apparently been giving U.S. interrogators valuable information.

On June 26, the New York Times and the French press agency AFP carried stories of still more arrests by Moroccan authorities, including yet another five Saudi nationals and three of their local contacts.

Mr. Speaker, these developments represent important breakthroughs in the long and difficult struggle against the forces of terror—and the very nature of that struggle requires that we have strong, reliable, consistent partners. Thankfully, Morocco is such a partner. As the New York Times noted, June 24, 2002, "Morocco, the first Muslim country to condemn the attacks of September 11, has escaped the terrorism that plagues its neighbors." And that newspaper went on to quote a Western diplomat in Morocco as saying, "The Moroccans worked hard to help nail these guys."

The Washington Post, June 16, 2002, quoted a Western diplomat as saying, "The Moroccans take very seriously their 225-year old relationship with the United States. There is good cooperation . . . They're serious." The diplomat continued: "The Moroccans have asked for nothing. Nothing. They made a decision to cooperate and they stuck to it."

Mr. Speaker, we can only hope that other friends of the United States will prove to be as helpful. In the meantime, let us thank Morocco for its ongoing support and cooperation—and let us continue to work closely with this friend,

our oldest and most faithful ally in the entire Arab and Muslim world.

ALBERT GRAVES, A PUBLIC
SERVANT AND AN INSPIRATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Albert Graves, a lawyer, a businessman, and a community leader who died on June 13, 2002, at the age of 92. It has been written of Albert that he built his power in an unusual way by helping the community whenever he could, without regard for who got credit.

Albert Graves was born on Christmas Day, 1909, in Hope, AR. Perhaps that was an indication of what a gift he would become to that community. After graduating from Hope High School in 1926 and Hendrix College in 1930, Albert received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1933 and soon joined his father, O.A. Graves, in practicing law. The young attorney made a name for himself in Hope, and at the age of 25 was elected mayor, the youngest in that city's history.

Albert served as mayor of Hope from 1935 to 1939, and from 1941 to 1947. His career in public service was not limited to city hall; he served as president of the Hope School Board from 1953–57, and was chairman of the Hope Water and Light Commission. Albert was quite active in Arkansas's law community and was a member of numerous associations and foundations, and he served as chairman of the State Judicial Nominations Committee each year from 1978 until 1982. He was also quite active in the First United Methodist Church, and taught the Century Bible Class for more than 50 years.

Albert Graves was Hempstead County's Citizen of the Year in 1978, and was an inspiration and a model for his community. He was well-respected, well-loved, and will be fondly remembered.

As a child growing up and attending public school in Hope, I saw him as one who was involved in his community, a successful businessman and accomplished attorney who took the time to give back. I looked up to him and was inspired by his example.

My heart goes out to his wife, Marilyn, his three children, seven grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren in what I know is a difficult time for them. I am keeping all of them in my thoughts and in my prayers. While Albert Graves may no longer be with us, his life and legacy live on in the lives of all those he touched.

A TRIBUTE TO FATHER PAUL J.
NOMELLINI ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HIS ORDINATION AND HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it was in 1973 that Brother Paul Nomellini, a professed religious brother in the Congregation of the Holy

Cross of Notre Dame, was flying to Washington D.C. to attend a conference here in Georgetown. Then a teacher in the inner city of Chicago, Brother Paul on that flight met and struck up a conversation with a former member of this body and a former member of my delegation, then-Congressman Gerald Ford.

They shared their flight in the innocence of travelers unaware of their real destination. By the end of the year, Congressman Ford, the politician, had become Vice President Ford and was on his way to becoming President Ford. Brother Nomellini, the teacher and religious brother, would that same year acknowledge his calling to the priesthood. He would in 1973 embark on the path to Holy Orders that would eventually lead him to be leader of the congregation of St. Mary Queen of Peace Church in Kingsford, Michigan.

Because our futures are so uncertain, Mr. Speaker, it's best we entrust our lives to Good Hands, and I'm sure that President Ford as well as Father Nomellini have long acknowledge the Lord's role in helping to shape their lives and destinies. So I rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, to report that a major chapter in the life of Father Nomellini will close on July 1, this coming weekend, when the good pastor marks his 25th anniversary as a priest and goes into retirement.

Despite his years of teaching in Illinois and Ohio, Father Nomellini is a true son of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He is a native of Hancock on Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula and is a graduate of Hancock High School. He attended Hancock's Soumi College—now Finlandia University—before going on to the University of Notre Dame, where he received his bachelor's degree in English and took his vows as a religious brother. He later earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, and a master's degree in theology from Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts.

An ordained priest since 1977, Father Nomellini, has served as pastor of the St. Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Kingsford for nine years. Before that, he served in parishes across the Upper Peninsula, including St. Peter's Cathedral and St. Michael Parish in Marquette, St. Joseph and Nativity parishes in Sault Ste. Marie, St. Mary & St. Joseph Parish in Iron Mountain, St. Joseph Parish in Rudyard, Holy Family Mission in Barbeau, Sacred Heart Parish in Schaffer, St. Michael Parish in Perronville, St. Joseph Mission in Foster City, and St. George Parish in Bark River.

In a recent interview with the Iron Mountain Daily News, Father Nomellini told reporter Linda Lobeck of his great love of teaching, but he spoke with the greatest pride of the many accomplishments and the community commitment of his Kingsford parishioners. From church improvements and expansions to local outreach programs, this parish surely reflects the spirit and love of its priest for the community.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Laurie and I will attend Father Nomellini's 25th Anniversary and Retirement Party on July 1. We will join with parishioners in lamenting his departure from the parish, and we will wish him well on his planned retirement projects, which, he told the Daily News, include "reading, listening to music, traveling and going to musicals and plays." Maybe, he said, he'll exercise that love of English and write a book or play or two. But

we'll wink privately, Mr. Speaker, because we know that we are all travelers, innocent of the knowledge only God holds for our futures, and God may yet have revealed another plan for Father Nomellini. In the past I nominated him to be Chaplain of the U.S. House, and he has attended the National Prayer Breakfast here in Washington, D.C. One thing I know for sure—Father Paul will go where God and his heart command him.

So I ask you and our House colleagues to join me in wishing Father Paul Nomellini our greatest thanks for his life of service as a teacher, a pastor, and a guiding friend, and I ask you to join me in wishing him all the best in his retirement. May God grant him many wonderful years.

H.R. 4560, THE AUCTION REFORM ACT OF 2002

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, "H.R. 4560 will clarify Congress's position on the 700MHz band width. In lieu of Committee action, the following points should be noted for the record."

Section 6 ensures that the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) policies that are designed to clear channels 52–69 do not result in an increased level of interference to "in core" channels 2–51, by permitting the operation of an analog facility on a channel assigned for digital transmissions was not designed to accommodate analog operations, and in most instances, relocating analog facilities on "in core" digital channels increases interference to surrounding analog and digital stations in both the UHF and VHF band, to the detriment of those station viewers. Indeed, the increased levels of interference has the ability to deprive television viewing households of the signals they depend upon for news, entertainment, and sports programming.

Sub-section 6(a) specifically prohibits the FCC from granting waivers to its spacing requirements (as required by section 73.610 of the Commission's rules (and the table contained therein) (47 CFR 73.610)) and its interference rules (as required by sections 73.622 and 73.623 of such rules (47 CFR 73.622, 73.623)) for stations assigned to channels 52–69, that seek to operate an analog facility on a digitally assigned "in-core" channel (channel 2–51), if such waiver will result in any degradation in or loss of service, or an increased level of interference, to any television household, except as the Commission's rules would otherwise expressly permit, exclusive of any waivers previously granted.

Pursuant to sub-section 6(b), television stations assigned to channels 63, 64, 68 and 69, that are seeking to clear these channels in order to make such frequencies available for public safety purposes by moving their facilities into the core (channels 2–51) will be governed by the FCC's interference rules and policies, including the waiver process. Sub-section 6(b) should not be construed as relieving stations from the obligation to meet the FCC's traditional waiver requirements.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. KERSCHNER ON HIS FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Mike Kerschner of Tiffin, Ohio, will celebrate a milestone fiftieth birthday on June 29, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Mike is celebrating this monumental occasion with family and friends, all who have known of his selfless contributions to the local community. Serving the community was not only Mike's duty but also his honor. His efforts to give back to the community have brought him a lifetime of both personal and professional achievement and satisfaction. Mike truly is a valued asset to the City of Tiffin.

Mike has served Tiffin well throughout his years, both professionally and philanthropically. Currently, Mike serves as President & CEO of the Old Fort Banking Company. He also holds a seat on the board of directors of the Seneca Industrial and Economic Development Corporation, Tiffin Area Chamber of Commerce, Fostoria Economic Development Corporation, and the Community Bankers Association of Ohio.

Mike readily gives of his time to numerous charitable causes that include the Saint Francis Foundation, and the local United Way Foundation. He considers it a distinct privilege to serve his community through his involvement with the Tiffin Elks Lodge #94, St. Mary's Finance Committee, and as President of Seneca Area Career Systems.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mike Kerschner. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Mike, who care about the well being and stability of their communities. We wish him the very best on this special occasion, and wish him many more years of good health and good fortune.

COMMENDING THE INDIANAPOLIS URBAN LEAGUE AND THE LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ACHIEVERS SOCIETY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Indianapolis Urban League and the local chapter of the National Achievers Society.

More than 350 outstanding high school students have been inducted into the Indianapolis Urban League's local chapter of the National Achievers Society (NAS). The first induction was held June 30, 2001. The induction was coordinated by the Indianapolis Urban League, along with Urban Leagues in other cities across the country and was a part of the National Urban League's Campaign for African-American Achievement, a community-based

movement that embodied the values of academic achievement, social development and civic responsibility.

In Indiana, the Indianapolis Urban League was a part of (22) Urban League Affiliates chosen from (115) affiliates across the country to implement the Campaign for African-American Achievement. The League will receive a minimum of \$500,000 over a five-year period to draw attention to and support for the urgent achievement and developmental challenges facing students in Marion County.

Students selected were high school juniors and seniors of color who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and plan to pursue higher education. The Indianapolis Urban League encouraged youth, parents and all community members to participate in activities that highlighted educational success and achievement, and placed their names on a national registry nominating them for scholarships up to \$10,000.

Today, the Indianapolis Urban League awarded \$222,000 in scholarships to (24) students. The highest number awarded to any Urban League Affiliate in the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to ensure that the accomplishments of these students from my district are forever memorialized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States of America. Let all who read these pages know that a very special group of people in Indianapolis, and across the country are "Spreading the Gospel that Achievement Matters."

THE MEDICARE RX DRUG BENEFIT AND DISCOUNT ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Medicare Rx Drug Benefit and Discount Act with JOHN DINGELL, the Dean of the House and Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Our Ranking Member on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, PETE STARK, has had a leadership role in the development of this legislation, as have so many other health care leaders in our caucus.

This legislation makes good on our promise to add affordable, comprehensive prescription drug coverage to Medicare.

The Democratic bill will look, smell, taste, and feel like any other Medicare benefit, because it is a Medicare benefit. Beneficiaries will not have to deal with an HMO or other private insurer.

Under this legislation, every beneficiary will be guaranteed a \$25 monthly premium, \$100 annual deductible, 20% co-insurance and \$2000 out-of-pocket limit, no matter where they live.

We provide additional assistance for low-income beneficiaries. Those with incomes up to 150% of the poverty level (\$13,290 for one person) will pay nothing. Those with incomes between 150–175% (\$13,290–\$15,505 for a single person) of poverty will pay premiums on a sliding scale.

The Medicare Rx Drug Benefit and Discount Act would: Lower prescription drug costs for all Americans, regardless of whether they participate in our plan; give all Medicare bene-

ficiaries the option of a reasonably-priced guaranteed prescription benefit under Medicare; and ensure that senior citizens and people with disabilities receive coverage for the drug their doctor prescribes and not some substitute that an insurance company deems "equivalent."

Unlike the competing Republican legislation, our plan would never force seniors into an HMO or similar private plan in order to get a prescription drug benefit.

Republicans claim they are giving seniors a "Medicare" prescription drug benefit, but their legislation really provides subsidies to insurance plans and HMOs, not to beneficiaries. Republicans claim they are offering beneficiaries a certain level of coverage, but their legislation really leaves virtually all of the important decisions to the private insurance companies.

Under the GOP plan, private insurers will decide which drugs are covered and which are not. If your drug is not on the list, too bad. Millions of seniors will not be able to afford their prescriptions under the GOP plan. Under the GOP plan, private insurers can pick and choose which pharmacies to include in their networks. If your neighborhood pharmacy is not on the preferred list, you are out of luck.

The bottom line is that those who can buy insurance under the GOP plan may find their choice of pharmacies severely limited or that they cannot get coverage for the drugs prescribed by their doctor.

Many HMOs have unfairly limited health care in the past. That's what the Patients' Bill of Rights debate has been about. They've been unreliable partners in Medicare to date; just look at the problems in the Medicare+Choice program. And now the Republicans want to put them in charge of this medication benefit under their "privatization" model.

Republican leaders have never liked Medicare. Former Speaker Gingrich once said Medicare would "wither on the vine because we think people are voluntarily going to leave it." In 1995, DICK ARMEY called Medicare: "a program I would have no part of in a free world."

Their legislation—the so-called Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act—lays the ground work for them to make good on their desire to do away with the program. The Republican prescription drug plan is the first step towards privatizing Medicare.

It forces seniors to deal with private insurance companies instead of having the choice of getting prescriptions through Medicare. It includes a premium support demonstration program that could significantly raise the premiums of beneficiaries who wish to stay in traditional fee-for-service Medicare. And it creates a new agency to oversee the private plans that lacks authority to provide adequate oversight and disadvantages the agency currently responsible for administering Medicare.

In contrast, we base our plan—not on a flawed privatization model—but on the successful Medicare program. We offer a genuine Medicare plan, providing an affordable voluntary drug coverage to all American seniors through Medicare.

Under this legislation, no senior will ever have to choose between putting food on the table or paying the rent and the drugs they need.

This legislation also helps reduce the skyrocketing costs that seniors and other bene-

ficiaries currently pay for prescription drugs by utilizing the collective bargaining power of Medicare's 40 million beneficiaries to guarantee lower drug prices. By closing some loopholes in current law that prevent or delay generic drugs from coming to market, this legislation also reduces drug prices for all Americans.

While our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are engaged in a cynical political exercise designed to bring themselves political cover, ours is serious legislation. It would bring senior citizens Medicare prescription drug coverage.

When President Harry Truman first proposed Medicare in his second term, a wide array of Republican forces were against him saying he could not do it. Truman said: "We may not make it [now], but someday we will." Eventually, Truman and other Medicare advocates succeeded. Harry and Bess Truman became the first Medicare enrollees in 1965.

The Republican leadership may prevent us from passing a true Medicare prescription drug benefit now, but they cannot stop us in the long run because that is what seniors and all Americans have said they really want.

As PETE STARK points out, prescription drug coverage is as essential to seniors' good health in the 21st century as coverage of doctor visits and hospital stays was in the 20th century.

We have also included in this bill provider payment reforms and increases that match or, in some important areas, exceed those in the Republican-crafted Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act.

If you want to see the real difference between Democrats and Republicans, look at prescription drug coverage. While Republicans protect the pharmaceutical industries' profits, the Democrats protect seniors from skyrocketing prescription drug costs. I urge my colleagues to look at the fine print, and to vote for this legislation when the opportunity arises.

INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE RX BENEFIT AND DISCOUNT ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my Democratic colleagues in introducing a real prescription drug benefit bill.

Unlike the bill introduced by our Republican colleagues, our bill can be simply explained, because it is built on a simple, known, and effective model—Medicare itself.

Just like seniors pay a voluntary premium for Part B medical costs such as doctor visits, our bill provides for a voluntary Part D drug premium of \$25 per month. For that, the Government will pay 80% of drug costs after a \$100 deductible. And no senior will have to pay more than \$2,000 in costs per year.

These are real numbers, not estimates. The benefits and the \$25 monthly premium are specified on page 1 of the bill. Unfortunately, there are no such guarantees in the Republican bill.

On top of that, we will be arming seniors with the most potent protection from soaring drug costs. Forty million seniors banded together under the buying power of Medicare,

we can begin to use the necessary bargaining power to rein in high drug prices.

This is not price controls; it is competition and bargaining. We saw that the Government was effective in negotiating a competitive price for the prescription drug Cipro during the anthrax outbreak. Why shouldn't we do the same for other life saving drugs for seniors?

In contrast to our simple and effective prescription drug benefit, the Republican bill is a complex scheme that would make Rube Goldberg blush. In fact, it is not a drug benefit at all. It is a host of subsidies to private insurers in the hope that they will offer a drug-only benefit to seniors. Will they? Time and again they have told us no.

Why would the Republicans put forward such a model? Well, quite simply they have a larger agenda—they want to privatize all of Medicare, and this is just another step. That is the only reason why seniors are not even given a choice of getting the benefit through their traditional Medicare provider.

And why don't they endorse our plan? Our plan is simple; it is comprehensive; it is what seniors want. The Republicans have raised just one issue: they say it costs too much. Well, I can tell you that we can afford it. It is just a matter of priorities.

To put the costs in perspective, we are told that our bill may cost \$500 billion dollars more than the Republican proposal over 10 years. Well, just a couple of weeks ago our Republican colleagues voted for a bill to make permanent the repeal of the estate tax on the wealthiest people in this country. In the second decade when that permanent repeal kicks in, it will cost the Treasury \$750 billion.

So, yes, this bill may be expensive. Seniors will spend \$1.8 trillion on prescription drugs over the next decade. That is expensive. But we can do something about it. It is a matter of choices.

Our prescription drug benefit has the strong support of organizations representing millions of seniors, such as the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Alliance for Retired Americans, the National Council on Aging, and AARP. They recognize our benefit is a good value for seniors.

The bill we are introducing today also includes provisions to shore up the Medicare fee-for-service system such as increased payments to hospitals, doctors, and nursing homes. Senior citizens and individuals with disabilities depend on Medicare fee-for-service and ensuring its continued viability has always been a priority for Democrats.

The Medicare Rx Benefit and Discount Act is a solid bill that provides a comprehensive, affordable, and much needed prescription drug benefit in Medicare. It also moves towards ensuring that seniors and those with disabilities can continue to count on the same high quality care from their providers as they receive today.

It is a good bill, and I hope my colleagues in the House will join us in supporting it.

EVERY CONFLICT DEMANDS DIFFICULT CHOICES

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, the following article appeared in the May 22, 2002 Griffin

Daily News, Griffin, Georgia. It was so moving that I felt the entire article should be read by every Member of Congress and I would like to submit it for the RECORD.

EVERY CONFLICT DEMANDS DIFFICULT CHOICES (By Philip Smith)

I will address a subject that has had a special meaning to me. It is called by some as "limited war." It gets started by a stronger country answering the call of a weaker country (or should I say government) to protect and shield it by limited involvement from outside intruders while it has time to organize a means to govern and protect itself. This start had a heavy meaning to this country in the early 1960s, especially on Aug. 5, 1964, when the first U.S. pilot was shot down and taken POW. The U.S. Veterans Administration declares this date as the beginning of the American Vietnam era.

War is born of failure—the failure of nations to resolve their differences diplomatically and peacefully. Furthermore, it is waged with tools of death and destruction so that man may live in peace.

We found out just what was defined and not defined by "limited war" over the next 8.5 years of the Vietnam War. That war, which we lost, ended Jan. 27, 1973. After this decade (now 25 years) to ponder lessons of Vietnam, we can realistically think about the use of force again. It is my purpose to try to show some areas which must not be forgotten and must be completely understood before we can think more clearly about potential future conflicts. It took 10 years after my return from Vietnam before I wanted to read and understand the history of the country and the lessons we learned from the whole war. I have read many books and articles, but I am by no means an expert. I am smart enough to know that experience is the best teacher. We can't let this experience go by without learning her lessons. They were too costly. These are my views, but they are shared by more than 95 percent of all the combat Vietnam vets I have talked with. There is Total War, Limited War and Unilateral in Action. With all the massive destructive power in all the countries of the world, total war is an absurdity, just plain suicide. Unilateral in action is just turning your back as your hear screams of your friends dying because you don't want to get involved. Limited war is between the Fierce Hawk and the coward dove. In any future conflict, or better yet before any future conflict, we need to make some hard choices about (1) what the particular situation requires; (2) what our final objectives are and (3) how valuable are these objectives to the U.S., i.e., is it strategically a necessity to the U.S.? Is it worth the blood of our young men? Is it necessary in the survival of this country? Then, we need to develop appropriate forces.

There are four major mistake areas of concern surrounding Vietnam. (1) Gradualism was a policy that did not work in South Vietnam. We thought that if we kept turning the screws tighter on the North, inflicting enough pain, they would stop their aggression on the South. The politicians felt constrained to this gradually, because of political pressure. We were afraid if we went too fast, the Chinese or Soviets would get directly involved, plus our own critics of the war back home denounced any escalations. Well, every time we tightened the screws, the North adapted to the pressure and was able to endure and build up. Our only deviation from gradualism was Operation Linebacker II, which was around-the-clock surgically precise bombing campaign of Hanoi, Haiphong and other North Vietnamese cities. In mid-December 1972, when the peace talks

broke down, due again to the NVA not negotiating in good faith, President Nixon put the baseball bat to their heads and for the first time brought the North Vietnamese to their knees in Operation Linebacker II.

They signed readily in January to end the war. Linebacker II was a lesson on the use of force. In Vietnam, we pussy-footed around the military power and paid a high price for it. We fought much longer and escalated far higher than we had ever intended, and we lost. Think what might have happened if Linebacker II had been unleashed in 1965 and not 1972.

(2) Attrition and gradualism often are lumped together. Our ability to wear down an enemy whose history since B.C. had been to endure pain, ended ultimately in failure. Small powers can fight big powers in attrition wars and win. The pattern is the same: Initial public support, prolonged struggles without apparent result, decreasing public support, one battle that goes badly, a vote of no-confidence, then withdrawal. But, it is possible to fight a war of attrition if there is total war. mobilization and commitment in the initial public support phase, such as World War I or World War II.

(3) Rules of engagement. We fought within specific rules of engagement while the enemy pursued a total war. As a helicopter pilot, we could not fire on the enemy unless we were not only being fired on first, but only if we had the specific person or persons identified. "Charlie" could fire at us while standing among a group of working peasants or villagers, and we could not return fire. But, he would give a child from this village a live grenade to pull the pin out as he walked up to some G.I. or rode in a helicopter. There were geographical restrictions for us, but none for the enemy. Don't think these rules won't demoralize a soldier fast.

(4) The people. To win any war, the will of the people must identify with the will of the conflict. For a young man to leave home while watching his country protest his leaving to fight an unpopular war and to arrive into that country seeing people protest his being there and fighting in a war where he has "rules of engagement" but the enemy does not, it doesn't take him long to see the futility in that war.

The will of the (Vietnamese) people was not the will of the government, no matter how much military hardware they had. So, without this "will," the enemy could hide in the open all over the country because they were the people. Without this "will of a people" to fight for a change, a change could never survive, an it didn't.

Some of the veterans of World War II and the Korean War have asked what is so special about the Vietnam combat vet. They, too, went through war. War is the same through time; only the weapons change. The horrors and pains and ever-present nightmares of war are the same after all wars. So, why are we, the Vietnam combat veterans, having so much more of a problem after this war?

Two issues keep coming up in talking with Vietnam vets: We Lost; we were defeated. We knew we could have won if only allowed to fight a war that had final objectives and not been a political palm.

(1) To my friends that were lost and all the men who died or were wounded or maimed for life, what is there to show for this sacrifice? These men were some of the finest people to ever live, and they answered their country's call, for what? Not only did we who came home have to live with a losing cause, but we came home to some hostile people who called us child-killers and dope heads, the thanks from a grateful nation.

(2) The second issue was guilt, guilt of taking people and ruining their customs and

form of life so they could wait on the U.S. dollar. Families were broken up, beautiful cities and shrines destroyed, a country which had one of the prettiest coastlines and mountains made to look like the moon with so many craters and sprayed so much that nothing would grow. Yes, this, then seeing a "no win situation," packed up and left only to see the South Vietnamese retreat in 1975. All the good and bad we had done for more than 10 years was gone in less than 10 days.

I have attempted this collection of views many times, but never have been able to get my thoughts or research completed or knew what to do with it after I had completed it until I talked to a grand lady, who is a retired teacher in North Carolina. She is a beautiful, well-educated person, who loves her country. This lady is special to me. Our eyes get watery when we speak to each other. One of the times I was shot down was in Laos along with three other helicopters, a gunship pilot friend of mine helped give us air cover until we could be extracted. He was shot down and killed. This friend of mine was her son. This tore her family apart. She asked the same question after the war: why? What was Fred's life for? What were all Freds' lives for? We can't let a Vietnam ever happen again. We must learn from our experience. We can't turn our heads on another future conflict without these questions answered before. We must demand answers from Washington. If the answers are yes to America's survival and the decision is to go, then the whole country must go for it immediately and completely or not at all.

This next one may be close, and it may have your sons or grandsons in it. If they have to die, we can't let them die in vain or live with guilt and humiliation the rest of their lives.

HONORING DR. JAMES E. CARNES

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James E. Carnes, a constituent of mine who retired earlier this month after a distinguished career of service at the Sarnoff Corporation, the last eleven and a half years as President and CEO.

Dr. Carnes holds nine U.S. patents and is the author of more than 100 papers and presentations. He received the David Sarnoff Award for Outstanding Technical Achievement in 1981. He has made tremendous contributions to science, to Sarnoff and to our central New Jersey community.

Carnes earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Princeton University and B.S. in engineering science from Pennsylvania State University, and served four years in the U.S. Navy.

Dr. Carnes began his career in 1969 when he joined RCA Laboratories as a member of the technical staff. In 1977, he transferred to RCA's Consumer Electronics Division, holding a variety of management positions, including Vice President of Engineering. In 1987, when Sarnoff Carnes became a subsidiary of SRI International, Dr. Carnes was named Vice President of Consumer Electronics and Information Sciences Research.

In addition to serving on the board of directors of SRI International and Sarnoff, Carnes serves on the board of several emerging

growth technology companies including Sensor, Inc., Sarif, Inc., Orchid Biocomputer and Sarnoff Digital Communications.

We in central New Jersey will miss Dr. Carnes and his steady leadership at Sarnoff. I hope that all of my colleagues in the House will join with me in wishing him every success in his future endeavors.

MEDICARE RX DRUG BENEFIT AND DISCOUNT ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, House Democrats keep our promise to introduce legislation creating a real Medicare prescription drug benefit.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit and Discount Act is an entitlement that would guarantee affordable, comprehensive prescription drug coverage to all senior citizens and individuals with disabilities who are on Medicare. It also includes provider payment increases and reforms that meet or exceed, in selected areas, those included in the Republican-written Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act. But this debate is not about provider payments. It's about providing beneficiaries with needed prescription drug coverage.

The benefit in this legislation is simple. It has no gaps, and no gimmicks. Beneficiaries will pay a \$25 monthly premium, have a \$100 per year deductible, and 20% co-insurance up to a \$2000 out-of-pocket limit. After a beneficiary spends \$2000, the government pays for all other needed prescription drugs. Under this legislation, a beneficiary will never pay more than \$2000 in a year, and most beneficiaries will pay far less. Beneficiaries whose incomes are under 150 percent of poverty will pay no premiums and no cost-sharing. Those with incomes between 150–175 percent of the poverty level will receive premium subsidies on a sliding scale basis and pay no cost-sharing.

These benefits will be guaranteed for every beneficiary, regardless of where they live. This legislation will reduce costs by using the market clout of 40 million beneficiaries to negotiate lower prices. It will also reduce costs for all Americans by closing loopholes in current law that allow pharmaceutical companies to game the patent system by preventing competition from equally effective, but lower cost, generic drugs.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit and Discount Act guarantees the choices that matter. Under our plan, Medicare will pay toward the cost of every drug, not just those on which the private insurance company cut a special deal. And, under our plan, every pharmacy that is willing to play by the rules will be welcome to participate.

And, importantly, unlike the Republican plan, our plan will never force the elderly or disabled into an HMO or similar private plan in order to get a prescription drug benefit.

The prescription drug coverage in the Democratic bill will seem just like any other Medicare benefit, because it is a Medicare benefit.

Don't be fooled by Republican rhetoric. The motto of the Republican bill ought to be "cautious emptor"—let the buyer beware.

Their bill is little more than an attempt to privatize Medicare, while doling out hundreds of billions of dollars in Federal tax dollar giveaways to their friends in the insurance and pharmaceutical industries.

And, no matter which measure you use, beneficiaries will pay more and get less under the Republican plan.

Our legislation will not be cheap. But we don't think twice about the cost of covering doctor visits and hospital stays under Medicare today. I would argue that prescription drug coverage is as essential to good health care in the 21st century as physician and hospital care was in the 20th century when Medicare was created.

Make no mistake: The Republican bill is designed simply to provide political cover for Republican members, not prescription drug coverage for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.

Our bill meets the needs of the 40 million Americans who depend on Medicare. That's why the leading beneficiary organizations support this legislation. I look forward to the debate. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of a real Medicare drug benefit. Vote "yes" on the Medicare Rx Drug Benefit and Discount Act.

RECOGNIZING THE TRICENTEN-NIAL OF ALLEN, MARYLAND

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Allen's 300th birthday. This Maryland community is located in the First Congressional District, which I have the distinct honor of representing. Established in 1702, I recognize this village for its longevity, and through that longevity, for influencing the unique flavor of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Allen sits in Wicomico County, along Wicomico Creek. Central to its establishment was the Grist Mill, which was originally built and operated by the Brereton family. The mill was fully operational until 1919 when, after 217 years, it finally closed. The mill dam formed Passerdyke Pond, still a local landmark, and it was the spillway, or trap, that gave the settlement its first name. Trap eventually became Upper Trappe, then it was changed to Allen in 1882, named after a prominent resident at the time who was a storekeeper and served as postmaster.

With the mill and its location on the lower Eastern Shore, Allen developed into a considerable market during the 18th and 19th centuries. A post office helped give it status, along with the several general stores that have operated throughout its history and the introduction of the canning industry. And like most settlements on the Delmarva Peninsula, agriculture drove the local economy, and Allen residents have found fame over the years with strawberries, apple and peach orchards, tomatoes, and especially string beans.

The Asbury Methodist Church is another important Allen institution. Founded in 1829, the church helped Allen become one of the earliest free African American communities in the Somerset area of Delamara.

Or course, it is people, not buildings, that really form a community, and the people of Allen have been clearly successful in that regard. Without local family heroes—the Breretons, the Allens, the Pollitts, the Messicks, the Huffingtons, the Twilleys, the Polks, the Duttons, the Fileds, and the Malones, to name but a few—Allen surely couldn't have survived its 300 years.

The people of Allen not only helped to develop a thriving village, but also shared their talents with greater Maryland. From within Allen's boundaries have grown community and regional leaders, sports heroes, and successful business entrepreneurs; Allen's people have served Maryland for centuries. In fact, Allen's citizens began establishing and building a community before the birth of the United States.

Allen is a true American village. It represents community, tradition, heritage and permanence. Peppered with historic buildings, Allen's pride in its history is evident, a history I honor today. Allen, however, is much more than its history; it is a thriving residential village with strong leadership and an active community. Contributing to the strength of Allen's community spirit are the Lion's Club, a Volunteer Fire Company, the Historical Society and the Asbury and Friendship United Methodist Churches. These organizations preserve history while moving Allen forward into its third century.

Allen is certainly one of Maryland's hidden treasures, so please join me in recognizing and celebrating the history of Maryland's charming Village of Allen in this, its 300th year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS HISPANIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, on July 26, the Southeastern Massachusetts Hispanic Recognition Awards Committee, Incorporated will hold their third annual award ceremony. I am delighted to extend my congratulations to committee chairman Emilio Cruz, co-chair Johnny Arellano, and committee members Jose Perez, Carlos Arellano and Jose Rodriguez, Bernice Diaz, Reubecca Rivera, Glenda Izaguirre and Gladys Medina.

Hispanic Recognition Awards are given to people who have worked for the betterment of the Hispanic population in Southeastern Massachusetts, in ways that benefit not simply those in the Hispanic community, but the broader community of which they are an integral part. America—and Southeastern Massachusetts—benefit enormously from the various cultures which come together to form our nation, simultaneously unifying on important national concerns, and contributing culturally, socially and economically through the preservation of their various heritages within this unified national framework. The Hispanic community is growing in numbers in Southeastern Massachusetts, and is taking its place along other ethnic communities that have contributed so much to our area. I am delighted to extend

recognition to the winners of this year's awards. They are:

Mr. Luis Bayanilla—For his outstanding work and support to the Latino Community of Southeastern Massachusetts.

Ms. Abigail Ramirez—For her outstanding work and support to the Latino Community of Southeastern Massachusetts.

Mr. Angel Urena—For his outstanding work and support to the Latino Community of Southeastern Massachusetts.

Festival Herencia Hispana, Inc.—For their efforts in keeping the Latino Culture alive in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Ms. Aracelys Rodriguez—For her efforts and support to the Latino Community and her dedicated work as an education professional.

Ms. Norma Collazo Porcha—For her efforts and support to the Latino Community and her dedicated work as an education professional.

Mr. Adrian C. Pina—For his dedicated work as a role model and achievement as a College Student.

Kids Against Drugs—For their efforts in providing education to the New Bedford Community about drugs and their dedication to philanthropic causes.

Dennison Memorial—For their commitment and support to the Latino Community and the Community at large of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Boys and Girls Club—For their commitment and support to the Latino Community and the community at large of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Mr. Raymond Patnaude—For his support to the Latino Community of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Dr. Alvaro Lopez—For his support to the Latino Community and his expertise in the medical field.

Mr. Dennis Halls—For his support and commitment to the Latino Community.

Rev. Hector Correa—For his years of service and commitment to the Latino Community.

Ms. Bernice Diaz—For her support and dedication to the Latino Community of New Bedford.

Mr. Speaker I believe that both the award recipients and the committee that has pulled this event together deserve our thanks for their hard work on behalf of the best of American ideals. And I have chosen to share this with my colleagues because I believe it is such an excellent example of how a community can deal with both the challenge and promise of diversity.

IN HONOR OF THE MOSES AND AARON FOUNDATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Moses and Aaron Foundation for its commitment to special children and their families. I recognize with gratitude the Foundation's significant and enduring humanitarian efforts and applaud all those who have given of themselves to fulfill its mission.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation "Special Fund for Children" is dedicated to assisting children with disabilities and their families with a wide range of programs including social,

physical, financial and wheelchair assistance, as well as counseling and guidance.

It also provides scholarship funding to educational institutions, collects, purchases, and distributes clothing for children in need, and remembers them with presents at holiday time or when they are hospitalized. This past year, the Foundation provided hundred of toys to the children of New York City's Police and Fire Department's fallen heroes.

In cooperation with Bally Fitness Centers and under the direction of its President Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun, and Executive Vice President Yehuda Kaploun, the Foundation has been able to establish 22 physical fitness and therapy centers and has arranged for sound and musical equipment in other institutions.

In conjunction with Downtown Film Productions, The Moses and Aaron Foundation produced "Chazak—A Testament of Strength", an award winning documentary highlighting the effect of music on special children. This monumental documentary serves as a vehicle to sensitize and educate the entire community on the needs of its special and outstanding citizens.

On Saturday night, July 20, 2002 at the Monticello Raceway in Monticello, New York, the Moses and Aaron Foundation under the Honorary Chairmanship of Nobel Laureate Eli Weisel, will sponsor its sixth Summer "Chazak—Strength" Concert paying tribute to special children. The guests of honor will be the special children, some of whom will perform with the entertainers on stage. A tribute will also be held in memory of the fallen heroes of the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center.

The corporate and individual sponsors of the Moses and Aaron Foundation include Mr. David Buntzman, Mr. Jonathan Fleisig, Mr. Robert Gans, Mrs. Richard Gans, Mr. Avi and Dr. Laura Greenbaum, Mr. and Mrs. David Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Rennert, Mr. Charles Rosenay, Dr. Steven Stowe, and Mr. Eli Rothman. I recognize the late Phyllis Cohen for her support of the Foundation, contributing to the improvement in the quality of life of special children.

I also recognize the support given to the Moses and Aaron Foundation by Steve and Shirley Slesinger, who have brought happiness and smiles to the faces of millions of America's youth by bringing Winnie the Pooh and other characters to the screen and printed world, with particular credit to Shirley Slesinger Lasswell for creating and cultivating one of the best loved bear in history.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation was founded in memory of Rabbi Dr. Maurice I. Hecht and Aaron Kaploun, both of whom led lives of exemplary community service. It is in this sentiment of communal dedication that the Moses and Aaron Foundation has devoted itself to serving the needs of a unique group in the community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Moses and Aaron Foundation. Their work has truly made a difference in the lives of thousands.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CALIFORNIA AND MATSUYAMA, JAPAN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, for over twenty years the City of Sacramento, California and Matsuyama, Japan have shared a special relationship as sister cities. This partnership has given birth to cultural exchanges that have enriched the lives of the residents in both cities. A new art exhibition that will be unveiled on July 6, 2002, is a testimony to this ongoing relationship.

The Miura Museum of Art in Matsuyama will unveil the "Serene Beauty: Lucie Rie Retrospective" exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the artist's birth. The exhibit features the work of Lucie Rie, one of the most outstanding potters of the 20th-century and a major influence on the world of ceramic art. The exhibit of Lucie Rie's exceptional ceramic work at the Miura Museum of Art in Matsuyama is only the second showing of her work in Japan.

This exhibit would have not been possible without the partnership with Sacramento residents who loaned the museum a large portion of the exhibit that will be displayed. Additionally, the museum has invited residents of Sacramento to participate in the exhibit opening and panel discussion honoring Lucie Rie and her passion for creating ceramic art.

I would like to commend each of participants who have loaned pieces from their collection in order to share their appreciation of art with the residents of Japan. The sister city partnership has developed into a friendship which complements the diverse background of the residents of Sacramento and Matsuyama and I look forward to the continued exchange of cultural treasures between our two cities.

HONORING RUFINA A. HERNANDEZ, ESQ.

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the splendid efforts and notable accomplishments of an extraordinary woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding community leader for her exceptional record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Rufina A. Hernandez, Esq.

Ms. Hernandez has amassed a distinguished record of leadership and service to our community. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of New Mexico and her Juris Doctorate from the Georgetown University Law Center. Ms. Hernandez practiced law for eight years at the Legal Aid Society of Denver specializing in Family Law, Public Utility Regulation and Consumer Protection. She served as the Executive Director of the State Bar of New Mexico and was previously the Assistant Dean for

Student Affairs at the University of Denver College of Law.

Presently, Ms. Hernandez is the Executive Director of the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA), a preeminent community based non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health, education and self sufficiency of Colorado's Latino community. Under her leadership, LARASA has made a tremendous impact on our city and state by increasing awareness about issues affecting the Latino community and developing effective public policies and programs to address those issues. Ms. Hernandez has been a powerful advocate for change. Through her leadership, LARASA continues to bring tangible benefits to our community through the Center for Community and Behavioral Health, Centro de la Familia—the Latino Public Policy Center, the Data Resource Center and through the Proyecto Educar and Amigos de la Comunidad programs that increase cultural competency and Latino involvement in our schools.

Ms. Hernandez serves on the National Center for Law and Education Board of Directors, the Women's Lobby Board, the Colorado Association of Non Profit Organizations, the Child Health Advocates Board of Directors and the Governor's Utility Consumer Advisory Board. She co-chairs the Latino Jewish Coalition and the Latino Campaign for Education and also serves on the Mayor's Latino Advisory Council.

It comes as no surprise that Ms. Hernandez' commitment and service has earned her several awards including the American Jewish Committee Professional Award, the National Council of LARASA Special Advocacy Award, the American Jurisprudence Award for Academic Achievement, and the University of Denver Outstanding Staff Award.

While we are saddened that Ms. Hernandez will be leaving our community for a position with the National Education Association, I am confident that her leadership, skill and experience will be of great benefit to the cause of public education in our country.

Please join me in commending Rufina Hernandez, Esq. It is the strong leadership she exhibits on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF TONY AND MURIEL MANSOUR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two dear friends, Tony and Muriel Mansour, who will join with family and friends this Saturday, June 29th to celebrate their fifty years of marriage. My wife, Gayle, and I want to add our congratulations to Tony and Muriel on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

I have known the Mansour family since I was growing up on the east side of Flint, Michigan. The Mansour's lived one street over from the Kildee's, and the Mansour and Kildee children played together.

Mr. Speaker, both Tony and Muriel have been active members of our community in the

City of Flint and Genesee County for many years. Tony was a distinguished attorney for many years before being elected Genesee County Circuit Judge in 1968. He served with great distinction until he retired from the bench. In addition to resuming his successful law practice, Tony has been active in the Flint Rotary Club, being elected Club President in 1996. Tony is a past President of the Men's Club at Flint Holy Rosary Catholic Church and of the Knights of Columbus in Davison, Michigan. Tony has also been a leader in Flint's large and diverse Arab-American community, helping to found the Arab-American Heritage Council.

Muriel has been active in her own right. She has served as president of Heartbeat of Flint, as well as president of the Flint chapter of the American Business Women's Association. Muriel has also served on numerous community organization boards including the Children's Museum of Flint, the Catholic Social Services, the Genesee County Bar Auxiliary, the Flint Osteopathic Hospital Auxiliary, and Allegro (the volunteers for the Flint Institute of Music). For the past eight years, Muriel has worked as a volunteer at the Genesee-Lapeer Chapter of the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Flint and Genesee County is a much better place in which to live due to the efforts of Tony and Muriel Mansour. Gayle and I value them as dear friends and wish them well on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WUSSLER FOR 19 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE RED CROSS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to commend Robert Wussler for his 19 years of public service with the San Bernardino County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Under his leadership, the Red Cross chapter has quadrupled its budget and modernized its efforts to better serve the citizens of the Inland Empire.

Mr. Wussler began his tenure in 1983 as the accountant for the chapter in San Bernardino County, which is the main population center of my home district. After serving in that capacity for seven years, he became the chief executive officer of the newly created Inland Empire Chapter in 1990.

Since that time, the chapter has grown its budget from \$300,000 to more than \$1.2 million, and increased its staff from seven to 15 professional employees. At the same time, he has reduced the chapter's dependency on United Way funding from 83 percent in the 1980s to 5 percent today. The chapter is now computerized, centralized and very well organized, thanks to Mr. Wussler's efforts. It recently received a \$1 million gift from a special donor.

The improvement of the San Bernardino Chapter under Mr. Wussler's direction was recognized by the American Red Cross headquarters. Two decades ago, the chapter was considered near the bottom among chapters across the country. It is now ranked among the 100 best of 1,125 nationally. Mr. Wussler

himself received the 1997 Golden Bear Award for Management from the State of California, and the National Tiffany Award, the highest granted to Red Cross paid staff.

Mr. Wussler and the chapter's board of directors in 1994 created the National Nurse Assistant Training program, which is gratefully supported by local hospitals and trains and certifies 200 students a year as nursing assistants. The chapter has also implemented a home health care training program and an acute care program to help nurse assistants further their career.

Most important to the citizens of San Bernardino County, the Red Cross has been a lifeline for thousands of people who have lost their homes or seen their lives thrown into turmoil by disasters like the Big Bear and Landers Earthquakes of 1993 and the terrible floods that wiped out communities from Forest Glen to Mentone in 1999. The chapter has also helped in countless small disasters that have thrown individual families from their homes, and helped in planning for the disasters we will face in the future.

Mr. Speaker, after 19 years with the San Bernardino Chapter, Robert Wussler has decided to retire. I ask you and my colleagues to please join me in thanking him for a career dedicated to public service and aiding the afflicted, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, this week I will travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to meet with Crown Prince Abdullah and other Saudi officials for the third time since the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11. As a result of my previous visits, I have become convinced that it is in the best interest of the United States to remain actively engaged in a constructive dialogue and working partnership with Saudi officials and their leader Crown Prince Abdullah.

My initial reaction to traveling thousands of miles to the Saudi Kingdom, in early October 2001, where 15 out of 19 hijackers as well as Osama bin Laden hailed from, was negative. I saw little value in traveling to a region where even in the wake of over 3,000 American deaths, there remained an undeniable hatred of America, continued financial support for fervent extremism, and ties to terrorist organizations that threaten our nation's interest and security. However, I have changed my initial reluctance to engage Saudi Arabia, though not my objection to many of its policies, because Saudi Arabia lies not only at the heart of the problem facing the United States in the Middle East and the Islamic world, but they are also our best hope for resolving these same problems.

My meetings with Crown Prince Abdullah in Riyadh and Jeddah have been candid and frank discussions regarding many aspects of U.S.-Saudi bilateral relations. No subject has been taboo. The Crown Prince and I both voiced criticism of each others country's policies, but we also reiterated the longstanding

friendship and alliance between America and Saudi Arabia and our many common interests and goals.

The Crown Prince impresses me as a man with a vision of peace and coexistence between Israelis and Arabs; moreover, he is willing to risk his personal prestige for a quest for peace. The Crown Prince is a practical and logical man. He is tested and knows the value of leadership. I am convinced that the Crown Prince senses an historic opportunity to build confidence and seek peace from the extraordinary tragedies of the last 20 months and appreciates this opportunity to lead the Arab world away from extreme radicalism and toward normalizing relations with Israel.

My optimism is checked, however, by a recurrent fundamental failure by Saudi Arabia to appreciate the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from an Israeli perspective and to recognize the sense of vulnerability of the Israeli people. In fact, the Crown Prince often suggests that American policy in the Middle East is unbalanced and too favorable to Israel. Ironically, it is the Saudi policy toward Israel that too often lacks objectivity.

Since September 11, there has been much criticism of the Saudi government in our country and internationally. Much of the criticism is justified, and I have joined my colleagues in Congress in voicing my concerns and objections when I deemed it necessary and in the best interest of the nation. I have been a vocal critic of harmful policies carried out by the Saudi government or Saudi nationals, including their lack of democracy, freedom of the press and abominable treatment of women. I have also strongly condemned Saudi connections to the financing and support of international terrorist organizations, unwillingness to unequivocally condemn suicide bombings perpetrated by Palestinian terrorists, financial payoffs to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers, and their financial backing of extremist schools in Pakistan and around the world that preach intolerance and hate. Like many Americans, I am also angered and disturbed by the virulent anti-American and anti-Semitic rhetoric that is published in the government-run press and echoed repeatedly by Saudis throughout the kingdom. The Saudi government cannot have it both ways; if they are truly committed to peaceful coexistence with Israel, they cannot feed the fires of those who hate and are bent on the destruction of the peace process and the State of Israel itself.

Faced with growing American and international criticism, Crown Prince Abdullah has reevaluated the effect of Saudi policies and is seeking to make fundamental changes in the Saudi Kingdom. Since assuming leadership in 1995, Crown Prince Abdullah has taken initial steps to reform Saudi Arabia's economic and political structure and is making serious attempts to root out corruption. The Crown Prince is also the leading advocate for Saudi Arabia's obtaining membership in the World Trade Organization, WTO. I strongly support this effort and believe that WTO membership would lead to greater accountability and transparency in the Saudi Kingdom and, more importantly, would connect Saudis to the global economy.

Most important of all, Crown Prince Abdullah brought Saudi Arabia into the international spotlight last February by initiating a proposal that offers Arab normalization of rela-

tions with the State of Israel, if Israel returns to the pre-1967 borders. While the Saudi plan maybe viewed by some as a non-starter, an initial position for negotiations, or even worse a public relations ploy, it should not be altogether ignored or minimized. This initiative is a significant signal that Crown Prince Abdullah will be an active participant in the elusive peace process and may be the most progressive step toward Arab-Israeli reconciliation taken by any Arab leader since Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat traveled to Jerusalem and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. Unfortunately, during Camp David II in 2000, too many Arab leaders remained on the sidelines while a comprehensive peace proposal was being circulated. Crown Prince Abdullah seems to recognize the lost opportunity that occurred during Camp David II, and in a promising sign he clearly stated to me his intention to be actively involved in any new effort for a comprehensive peace agreement.

The United States would be ill-advised to disengage from Saudi Arabia or its leader. As the heart and soul of the Muslim world, Saudi Arabia is home to Islam's two holiest places, Mecca and Medina. It is the Muslim world and, in particular, Arab states that the United States must actively engage in dialogue to promote educational reform, greater religious freedom, democracy, freedom of the press and expanded rights for women. We need to press the Saudi government, especially Crown Prince Abdullah who has significant weight in the Arab and Islamic world, to address religious freedom and human rights. At the same time, we must seek the advice and assistance of prominent Saudis to help America strengthen and improve our standing in the Muslim world. It would be short-sighted to ignore the perceptions and beliefs of more than one billion people.

Saudi Arabia is also integral to our policy of containing and eventually removing Saddam Hussein from power. Saudi cooperation with the U.S. and other allies in enforcing Operation Southern Watch over Southern Iraq has been considerable. During my visit to Saudi Arabia this week, I will reiterate that Iraq repeatedly fails to comply with United Nations (UN) resolutions, continues to block unfettered UN weapons inspections, is stockpiling weapons of mass destruction, harbors and supports terrorists, and poses a grave threat to the security of the United States and every nation in the region. It is critical to the United States that Crown Prince Abdullah and Saudi Arabia assist the Bush Administration in building a coalition of support to remove the threat of Saddam Hussein to the region.

My visit to Saudi Arabia is also another opportunity to send a message from the American people to the Saudi government and its citizens that the United States intends on continuing our engagement and partnership with their country; however, I would be remiss if I ignored the continued presence and activity of dangerous extremists in the Saudi Kingdom and the danger they pose to America and our allies. Ultimately, the future of U.S.-Saudi relations hinge on the efforts of Saudi leaders to root out extremist elements within the kingdom and choke off all financial support emanating from the kingdom to terrorist organizations around the world.

As for Saudi Arabia's leading role in the Middle East, it is incumbent on Crown Prince

Abdullah and other Arab leaders to help reform the Palestinian leadership, as outlined by President Bush on June 24, 2002, from one based on corruption, incitement, terror and suicide bombings to one based on democracy, peace and constructive dialogue. This will be the major thrust of my conversations with the Crown Prince this Sunday in Jeddah. It is important to note that Crown Prince Abdullah and other Saudi officials have already played a constructive role in the reform effort by assisting the Palestinians in writing a new constitution. Without concerted international pressure, there will be no genuine reform of the Palestinian leadership and, I fear, no end to suicide bombings. These terrorist acts must end if we are to reach a comprehensive and lasting regional peace based on security, recognition for Israel, and statehood for the Palestinians. Indeed, the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to have a nation of their own will be destroyed unless there is a change of attitude among those in the Arab and Muslim worlds who encourage and provide moral, financial and material support to so-called martyrs who commit these heinous, inhuman and immoral terrorist acts.

As a strong supporter of an unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel, I care deeply about the future security and prosperity of the Jewish homeland. In meetings with Saudi leaders, I will remind them of the unprecedented terrorism the Israeli people have faced over the past 20 months and the tragic toll that suicide bombers have inflicted on innocent Israelis. It is also imperative they understand that like America, Israel has the right to defend herself against these barbaric attacks and that the United States will stand in solidarity with Israel during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to avert another tragedy like September 11 and defeat the scourge of terrorism, America needs allies—we cannot do it alone. I am going to Saudi Arabia because more effective cooperation and understanding between our two countries is fundamental to winning the international war on terrorism, and members of Congress must play more than just a consenting role in that effort.

PUBLIC SAFETY TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. This legislation will achieve two important public policy goals.

First, it will effectively overturn a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service which has declared as taxable income the waiving of fees by local governments who provide service for public safety volunteers.

Many local governments use volunteer firefighters and auxiliary police either in place of, or as a supplement to, their public safety professionals. Often as an incentive to would-be volunteers, the local entities might waive all or a portion of the fees typically charged for city services such as the provision of drinking water, sewerage charges, or debris pick up. Local entities make these decisions for the purpose of encouraging folks to volunteer, and seldom do these benefits come anywhere

near the level of a true compensation for the many hours of training and service required of the volunteers. This, of course, not even to mention the fact that these volunteers could very possibly be called into a situation where they may have to put their lives on the line.

Rather than encouraging this type of volunteerism, which is so crucial, particularly to America's rural communities, the IRS has decided that the provision of the benefits described above amount to taxable income. Not only does this adversely affect the financial position of the volunteer by foisting new taxes about him or her, it has in fact led local entities to stop providing these benefits, thus taking away a key tool they have used to recruit volunteers. That is why the IRS ruling in this instance has a substantial deleterious impact on the spirit of American volunteerism. How far could this go? For example, would consistent application mean that a local Salvation Army volunteer be taxed for the value of a complimentary ticket to that organization's annual county dinner? This is obviously bad policy.

This legislation would rectify this situation by specifically exempting these types of benefits from federal taxation.

Next, this legislation would also provide paid professional police and fire officers with a \$1,000 per year tax credit. These professional public safety officers put their lives on the line each and every day, and I think we all agree that there is no way to properly compensate them for the fabulous services they provide. In America we have a tradition of local law enforcement and public safety provision. So, while it is not the role of our federal government to increase the salaries of these, it certainly is within our authority to increase their take-home pay by reducing the amount of money that we take from their pockets via federal taxation, and that is something this bill specifically does as well.

President George Bush has called on Americans to volunteer their time and energy to enhancing public safety. Shouldn't Congress do its part by reducing taxes that discourage public safety volunteerism? Shouldn't Congress also show its appreciation to police officers and fire fighters by reducing their taxes? I believe the answer to both of these questions is a resounding "Yes" and therefore I am proud to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. I request that my fellow Members join in support of this key legislation.

IN HONOR OF HEROES WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Independence Day, I submit for the RECORD a speech given in my Congressional District on Memorial Day, by James E. Merna of 7503 Dover Lane, Lanham, Maryland, honoring the heroism of veterans from Prince George's County, Maryland, that have fought to protect our freedoms.

HONORING FIVE SONS OF PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, MARYLAND, THAT HAVE FOUGHT TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS

(By James E. Merna, Former Maryland State Commandant, Marine Corps League)

Thank you Mayor Harrington, Councilwoman Marion Hoffman, Bill Hickey, other Town of Bladensburg elected and appointed officials, members of American Legion Post 131, leaders of other veterans organizations, and fellow veterans. Thank you for inviting me. I am pleased to be here.

The town and citizens of Bladensburg should take great pride for the many years you have conducted ceremonies such as this. Bladensburg is not only a historic town—a famous port town—it is also a very patriotic town. Thanks also to Colmar Manor American Legion Post 131 for helping to make these events happen.

Memorial Day, as it is now observed, is a special day set aside to remember the service and sacrifice made by Americans who answered their country's call to duty in all wars—those who gave their lives, those who served and returned, those who were injured or disabled as a result of their service those who remain missing in action, and those who serve today in Afghanistan and around the world to defend freedom and to fight terrorism.

In my remarks today, I want to talk about five brave Sons of Prince George's County, who answered their nation's call, and of their courage, devotion to duty, and personal sacrifice. I believe it is a message for all, but especially for our young people. Better role model other than their parents or close relatives, they could not have.

I stress younger people in light of an announcement from the U.S. Department of Education this month that said "More than half of America's high school seniors do not have even the most basic grasp of U.S. history, showing no improvement in a nationwide test since 1994."

The Education Department issued a national history "report card" which measured the performance last year of fourth, eighth and 12th graders in history. Students did not know, for instance, that America's fundamental belief in individual liberty was expressed in the Declaration of Independence, or that the image of UNCLE SAM was used to appeal to patriotism during wartime.

Educators said the results were "truly abysmal," pointing out that the higher the grade and closer a student was to voting age, the lower the understanding of U.S. history.

In grade 12, only 43 percent of students had a basic or proficient knowledge of history. More than a third of fourth graders and nearly 40 percent of eighth graders also did not have a basic understanding of the subject. The Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, stressed that "basic" is the bottom of the achievement ladder. And, he said, they didn't even reach that—"the lowest rung."

In this complex day and age, this is troublesome. History is a key component of our nation's school curriculum, and it is through history that we understand our past and contemplate our future. Especially following the September 11 attacks that targeted U.S. democracy. It is appalling that some of the questions that stumped students involved the most fundamental concepts of America's democracy. Our work is cut out for us—we need more enlightened students—and better trained history teachers.

The first notable Son of Prince George's County that I want to mention, is one of your very own, a life-long resident of Bladensburg. When I think of him, I'm reminded of the many great songs that were popular during World War II. And I'm referring to records, not CD's, tapes, or DVD's.

Among the best in my opinion, were three: (1) There'll be Bluebirds Over, the White Cliffs of Dover," sung by Vera Lynn (2) "Long Ago and Far Away," made famous by Jo Stafford, and (3) "When the Lights Go On Again, All Over the World," sung by Vaughn Monroe.

This individual, I am about to name, and many others of his generation exemplified the very ideals inscribed at the base of this Peace Cross Memorial: endurance, courage, devotion, and valor. Because of their wartime service and sacrifice, they made it possible for the bluebirds once again to fly over the White Cliffs of Dover, for the lights to come on again all over the world, in a global struggle long ago and far away.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join with me in applause for one of your finest citizens, a World War II Navy veteran of many battles in the Pacific, a venerable gentleman who will celebrate his 88th birthday in August, the Chairman-Emeritus of Bladensburg's Promotions Committee—Mr. Bill Hickey.

Let us never forget that we have yet to erect a Memorial on the Mall in Washington for our World War II veterans, and we're losing these veterans at an astounding rate of 1500 a day. Like all of you, I want to see that overdue Memorial built—and soon, as a tribute to the Bill Hickey's and all our World War II veterans. I have a personal interest in this Memorial as well. My oldest brother George was killed in action in World War II. He went down with his ship, LST 577, sunk by a torpedo from a Japanese submarine in the Philippines, on February 11, 1945. He was 19 years old.

Let me mention another truly outstanding Son of Prince George's County—one who epitomized the motto of those long ago great Notre Dame football teams coached by the legendary Knute Rockne. Coach Rockne once said the motto of his teams was: Don't Let Your Buddy Down—a motto which he admitted he borrowed from our Marine Corps on the battlefields of World War I.

Captain Jim Graham grew up in Prince George's County, in Accokeek, finished high school in Brandywine, and graduated from Frostburg State College in 1963. His family later lived in Forestville. He was a career Marine officer serving in Vietnam in 1967. Listen to this stirring account of Captain Graham's heroic actions as described by General Lewis W. Walt, former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps: "Captain Jim Graham was a young company commander serving with our 5th Marine Regiment in Vietnam. His company, while in the attack, came under heavy fire from mortars and small arms which immediately inflicted large numbers of casualties in his Second Platoon. Graham, upon seeing this, organized and boldly led a fierce assault through the Second Platoon's position, forcing the enemy to abandon the machine gun position, thereby relieving some of the pressure on the platoon and enabling evacuation of the wounded to a more secure area. During the afternoon and early evening, Graham's small force stood steadfast in its hard-won enclave. He was wounded twice while personally accounting for 15 enemies killed. His battalion commander ordered him to withdraw to friendly lines. Graham reacted by sending all of his men back except one man who could not be moved due to the seriousness of his wounds. He apologized to his battalion commander for not completely carrying out the order to withdraw, but said 'I just can't leave this young Marine, keep the firing coming through Colonel, we are hurting them.' About 20 minutes later, Captain Graham radioed: 'This is my last transmission. I am being assaulted by at least 25 of them. It's been a pleasure soldiering with

you.' Captain Jim Graham was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic deeds that day."

A year later, I had the privilege to attend a ceremony at 8th and I, Marine Barracks, Washington, DC when Captain Graham's widow, Janice, accepted the Nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, in her husband's name. It was the first Medal of Honor to be awarded to a Marylander in the Vietnam War.

Another Prince George's great, the late Maryland State Senator Ed Conroy, was a highly decorated army Korean War hero who led the defense of Heartbreak Ridge. He was severely wounded twice, lost an arm and sustained burns over 90 percent of his body. Among his decorations were the Silver Star, and two Purple Hearts. Ed had a miraculous recovery and went on to earn a law degree from Georgetown University. He never forgot his fellow veterans and was known in the Maryland Senate as the champion legislator for all veterans legislation. I had the pleasure to organize a testimonial dinner for Ed when he was elected as National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. On many occasions when I would introduce him, he would have me say with pride that he was "the closest to a Marine without being a Marine." We miss Ed and his tireless energy. A great patriot. Many of you, I'm sure, know Ed's widow, Mary Conroy. She serves Prince George's County today with much distinction, as a Member of the House of Delegates in Annapolis.

Moving along, I want to mention two other notable Sons of Prince George's County who served their nation with honor in Vietnam: Charles E. "Butch" Joeckel, Jr., and John Clements, both distinguished combat Marines.

Butch Joeckel was raised in Colmar Manor, within walking distance of this monument. He graduated from Bladensburg High School in 1965, joined the Marines in 1966, and went to Vietnam in 1967. He was a 20-year-old squad leader and only in Vietnam three months when his river boat was ambushed during the Tet Offensive in January 1968. While searching out a suspected enemy position ashore, one of his men inadvertently stepped on a land mine, triggering an explosion which blew off both of Butch's legs above the knee. Seven other Marines were wounded by the blast. Despite his severe injuries, Butch maintained exceptional presence of mind and called for a medical evacuation and directed the clearing of a helicopter landing zone.

As is the case with all seriously wounded servicemen and those killed in action, a military officer is usually assigned to make personal contact with the family. The casualty notification officers, as they are called, was in Butch's case, a Marine Lieutenant just back from Vietnam. It was my brother, Jerry Merna. When Jerry got back home that night, in Alexandria, Va., he called to let me know he had just been in Colmar Manor, visiting with Butch's parents. He let me know of the severity of Butch's wounds.

For me, that was the beginning of a 34-year friendship, to this day, with Butch. I soon rounded up a few other former Marines and we visited Butch at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital. In fact, we brought him home once he was discharged, back to his boyhood home—at 3605 40th Place, in Colmar Manor, where his dad, a World War II veteran, still lives. On the way home, we made a detour, to Peter Connell's Restaurant on Annapolis Road, now called The Italian Inn, for "refreshments."

I was with Butch at a ceremony at Headquarters Marine Corps when he was awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest

award for bravery in combat. It was presented to him by four-star General Lewis W. Walt, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. Earlier, in the Korean War, General Walt was my Commanding Officer, when he commanded the 5th Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. When pinning the medal on Butch, General Walt said, "This is one of the proudest moments of my military career, for I am more proud of Butch than of any Marine I know." That was quite a compliment coming from someone like General Walt, who during his military career, won two Navy Crosses and the Silver Star in World War II, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star in Korea, and the Distinguished Service Medal as the Commander of Marines in Vietnam.

This was not the first meeting Butch had with General Walt. Back on July 6, 1968, thirty-four years ago, I had the pleasure of organizing a Welcome Home Parade for Butch. The parade commenced right here at this very site, the Peace Cross, and marched all the way down Bladensburg Road to the DC line. My Prince George's County Detachment of the Marine Corps League and the American Legion Post 131 in Colmar Manor, co-chaired the event. We had the county proclaim that day, July 6, 1968, as Butch Joeckel Day. Youth groups, veterans groups, community service organizations, high school marching bands, the Marine Corps Band, and troops from each of the military services marched proudly in Butch's honor that day. The grand marshal of the parade was General Walt, just back from Vietnam himself. Admittedly, and unfortunately, there weren't many parades for returning Vietnam Veterans in those days, but we had one, right here in Prince George's County. It was a huge success, and was nationally televised by ABC-TV.

One last word about Butch. He went on to a very distinguished career. He earned his college degree, then decided he wanted to help his fellow veterans. He took a low-level position in the Washington office of the Disabled American Veterans, and then went on to head up not only the Washington office, but the entire national organization itself, with more than one million members strong. He lives in Annapolis now, is married with two grown children, and is a grandfather. He's currently serving on a presidential disability commission. But he's never forgotten his roots. In an interview with the Capital newspaper in Annapolis not too long ago, he said, "I've been working in veterans affairs since I came back in 1968. It's in my heart. I felt like I had to give back to my community because they were great to me. I got a welcome home parade in my hometown. Not many did."

Finally, a word about John Clements. John was raised in Cheverly, and graduated from DeMatha High School. John was a contemporary of Butch's, and like Butch, joined the Marines right out of high school. He went off to Vietnam where he won three Purple Hearts. He was seriously wounded and spent a long time hospitalized. I visited John at Bethesda Naval Hospital a number of times. The doctors wanted to amputate one of John's legs, but through perseverance and much prayer, he was able to convince them otherwise. John has gotten by since then with the use of a cane. Like Butch, John too wanted to help his fellow veterans, and went on to a successful career with the Veterans Administration designing prosthetic equipment for disabled veterans.

In closing, as we leave here today, let us affirm to remember Memorial Day for what it was intended to be—a day of recognition, honor, and respect, and not just a three-day holiday.

Let us remember our fallen comrades—those who fought and died for freedom, and

the children, spouses and parents they left behind. Let us never forget those who returned, many disabled. If we can remember these worthy veterans on Memorial Day, we ought to honor them on Election Day. Let's do all in our power to put more upcoming Ed Conroy's in City Hall, on the County Council, in our State House, and in the Congress. We have the opportunity to do so with elections coming up in the Fall. They served us so well in war—and they would do as well in preserving the peace.

Our very own heroes—Bill Hickey in World War II, Ed Conroy in Korea, and Captain Jim Graham, Butch Joeckel, and John Clements in Vietnam—they represent the best that America has to offer. They are object lessons themselves. They made history. Hopefully, our young people will be inspired by their example.

If America is to remain great, it may indeed depend on how well we continue to inspire our youth to excel. Our noted Sons of Prince George's County have shown the way.

Thank you—and God Bless America.

IN RESPONSE TO THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS' RULING ON THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to have many veterans residing in my district. When I heard of the appalling actions of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals—ruling that the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional—my thoughts turned to them. We are a nation standing strong today because those heroes pledged their allegiance to America with their lives, their tears and their sacred honor. What must our troops in the field today think?

Our Country came into being through a Declaration of Independence that acknowledged that we are endowed by our Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This is clearly an acknowledgement in the very founding document of this Nation that we are indeed "one Nation under God."

When I conclude a constituent letter with "God bless America" is my action unconstitutional? Should that be banned, too? I stand with the tradition that allows the President to put his hand on the Bible, pledge to protect and defend the Constitution and conclude his oath with the words of George Washington, "So help me God."

It is sad that at a time when our country is at war and Americans have a renewed sense of patriotism—and what allegiance to America costs—this court is driving a wedge between us with their absurd ruling. It is my fervent hope that a common sense reading of the Constitution will eventually prevail and that liberal judges will end their war on religion in America.

As countless American leaders of all political stripes have said before me, God Bless America.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS' RULING

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today the latest in a string of absurd court decisions was handed down from a Federal Appeals Court in San Francisco. This court decided that the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional and cannot be recited in schools.

This is an unfortunate assault on America's tradition of recognizing the role of God in our country's life and as a foundation of our liberties.

This most outrageous decision cannot and will not stand. Our forefathers authored the 1st Amendment to protect Americans from a "national church or national doctrine" not from the Pledge of Allegiance. For far too often the most liberal Members of our courts have abused the 1st Amendment to remove any acknowledgment of God or a higher being from the Federal Government and our daily life.

I would simply remind my colleagues that we sit in a chamber that has the words "In God We Trust" engraved on the wall. From the beginning of our Republic a higher being has been acknowledged by this government and the Pledge of Allegiance simply is consistent with that history and tradition.

It is hardly comparable to note that the Pledge of Allegiance is relative to the establishment of a national religion, church or doctrine.

The court in San Francisco is the most overturned appeals court in the Nation. I am confident that this decision will also be overturned, but to ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance continues to be observed I am introducing legislation to amend the Constitution to ensure the Pledge of Allegiance is constitutionally protected speech.

A RISING NATION, UNDER GOD THIS FOURTH OF JULY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, listen again to the words we will hear this Fourth of July: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Given the recent Federal Court ruling about the constitutionality of our pledge of allegiance, will the day come when a Federal Court of these United States will not allow our Declaration of Independence to be read or posted on the walls of our schoolrooms across this land? I pray not.

We must always be mindful that the moral fiber of this Nation was built not upon the law of man, but rather upon the law of God.

"The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth," said Benjamin Franklin, "that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice—is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?"

Throughout our Nation's history we have faced many challenges, fought many battles. But from troubled times, we've gained greater victories. To the American, trouble but fuels our soul. Ignites our spirit. Trouble forges our future's strength. September 11th's legacy will be no different.

This Fourth of July, let us pause to give thanks to the almighty—to remember, reclaim, and rejoice in our national spirit born of revolution, our national quest.

In President Jefferson's first inaugural address, he called us "A rising nation, spread over a wide and fruitful land, traversing all the seas with the rich productions of their industry . . . advancing rapidly to destinies beyond the reach of mortal eye."

Mountaineers are always free. We live Jefferson's words. The spirits of Flood ravaged West Virginians fan the flames of future's hope.

"The God who gave us reason," Jefferson said, "did not ask us to forego its use." And truly America has taken his words to heart. We pursue life, liberty and happiness in this great Nation with great passion.

And so it should be.

Next January, our Nation will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Jefferson's legacy, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, a national quest that has inspired us ever since. Freedom paves the path of our national quest.

As we face new economic realities in West Virginia, we seek not only new industries, but also new economies. From new infrastructure to new technologies, we are working to build a new and brighter West Virginia.

As we face the war on terrorism, we grieve for the terrible toll it has already taken, the lives of West Virginia's precious sons and daughters. Let us remember that their sacrifice was for our quest not to falter or to fail, but rather to set sail and soar.

The rights for which our founding fathers and mothers so valiantly pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honors—and might I add they did so, and I quote, "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence,"—require the same from us in times of peace—and in times of war.

Jefferson's last letter, which was read on July 4th 1826 in Washington, DC, the day he would pass from this earth—concluded, "For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights and an undiminished devotion to them."

Our national quest shall endure. We remain a rising nation. The Fourth of July is our constant reminder, and the good Lord, our constant strength, despite what any court, judge, or jurisdiction of this government says to the contrary.

IN HONOR OF VINCENT J. BILARDO, JR.

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual and dedicated public servant from the State of Missouri. On July 26th, Vincent J. Bilardo, Jr. will be ending his current assignment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Kansas City District in which he has served as the Kansas City Brownfields Federal Showcase Program Director. He will leave a lasting legacy of tireless commitment to the betterment and preservation of our community and region.

Prior to joining the Corps in 1992, Mr. Bilardo began his career in public service with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) where he spent ten years at four different NASA facilities throughout the nation. His assignments included serving as a systems engineer in the Space Station Program at NASA Headquarters, a Space Shuttle propulsion systems engineer at NASA Kennedy Space Center and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, and as the manager of a branch of fifteen research scientists charged with developing closed loop environmental control systems for future lunar and Mars exploration missions at Ames Research Center.

Mr. Bilardo began his current position with the Kansas City Brownfields Federal Showcase in 1999 which consists of both the City of Kansas City, Missouri and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. He has been responsible for developing federal and state grant applications, providing technical assistance to a number of important regional initiatives, and managing several Brownfields redevelopment projects. His efforts have earned the program national acclaim as an award winning initiative that has significantly enhanced regional investment, economic growth, and environmental quality in the communities he serves. Under Mr. Bilardo's leadership the Kansas City Brownfields Federal Showcase has partnered with economic and industrial associations to implement an aggressive strategy to rebuild infrastructure, expand operations, and improve facilities in the region.

The crowning achievement of Mr. Bilardo's tenure has been in his diligent guidance and development of the Kansas City Riverfront Heritage Trail, for which he serves as the Bi-State Program Director. The Kansas City Riverfront Heritage Trail is an 18 mile long, bistate system of bicycle and pedestrian trails, pocket parks, restored ecosystems, and trailheads that has successfully leveraged municipal, state, federal, and private funding resources. Upon completion, the Riverfront Heritage Trail will connect critical riverfront activity centers to provide recreation, promote economic investment, wetland habitat restoration, and feature the rich historical and cultural highlights of our metropolitan area's past including Lewis and Clark's Corp of Discovery expedition and their two stops along the southwestern most bend of the Missouri River. Anyone who has been involved with the Riverfront Heritage Trail is cognizant of Mr. Bilardo's immeasurable contribution to this project and of the fact that it would not be the success it is today without his passion and tireless commitment.

Mr. Bilardo will leave a large void to be filled as he returns in August to NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. He will be fondly remembered by his peers and co-workers as a tireless and dedicated leader. Mr. Bilardo's amazing barbeque skills will be sorely missed by everyone who had the pleasure to work with him. It is with deep gratitude and honor that I recognize Vince Bilardo for his remarkable service to the State of Missouri. His devotion is an example to us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Bilardo and wishing him and his wife Heidi and their two daughters, Kendall and Rachel continued success and happiness in the adventures that await them.

THE EMERGENCY DIRECTED RAIL SERVICE ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Emergency Directed Rail Service Act. This legislation is intended to prepare the nation for the possibility that Amtrak will follow through on its threat to shut down. This bill is part of my effort to make sure the country is as prepared as possible should that shutdown occur.

Members are no doubt aware that Amtrak is in an extremely desperate financial situation. Amtrak contends it needs \$200 million in additional cash or it will cease operations on or about July 1, 2002. Although the Administration is currently considering an Amtrak application to use the Railroad Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Financing (RRIF) loan and loan guarantee program, it is doubtful Amtrak qualifies under the statute, under the formal regulations that govern the program, or under the informal rules imposed by the Department of Transportation and the Office of Management and Budget.

Similarly, although I would support an appropriation under the right conditions to help Amtrak in the short-term while the Congress and the Administration address Amtrak for the long-term, it is unclear whether the appropriations process will be able to provide Amtrak any funds before July 1, 2002.

I am particularly concerned about the effect on freight movements in the Northeast and on commuter operations around the country and consequently on our national economy. An Amtrak shutdown could adversely affect the economy in the Northeast United States because considerable freight would not be able to get to its destination, especially plants where the Northeast Corridor is the only rail access. Moreover, commuters in the Northeast and around the country may not be able to get to work either because the commuter authority operates on Amtrak infrastructure or because the commuter authority uses Amtrak employees to operate or maintain its trains.

Accordingly, on Monday I wrote Linda Morgan, the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, and asked whether the Board had the power to direct freight and commuter service that would be adversely affected by an Amtrak shutdown.

Ms. Morgan responded yesterday that the STB was unclear whether it would have the power to direct freight and commuter service in the event of an Amtrak shutdown and that its emergency powers have "never been tested before in this context . . . and . . . could be challenged in court."

This country needs someone to have the power to address the fallout on freight railroads and commuters if Amtrak shuts down. The legislation I introduce today does just that. It makes it clear that the STB has the authority it needs to act in the event Amtrak ceases service.

In particular, the bill would give the STB the authority to order the continued maintenance, signaling, and dispatching of the Northeast Corridor.

It would give the STB the authority to use federal funds to compensate the entity that conducts these services and to indemnify it with respect to any increased liability exposure.

It would also authorize the STB to direct service and to provide interim financial assistance to commuter operations around the country affected by an Amtrak shutdown.

Further, current law requires that to the extent possible the Amtrak employees who already perform the work should do the work required by the directed service.

A final word of caution. I realize this bill addresses provisions of law relating to the STB and that there are interests out there who will want to attach other STB-related amendments to it. I call on them not to do so. This bill addresses a potential national transportation disaster and is limited solely to the STB's emergency directed service powers. In this case, we must put the national interest above all others.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENHANCED PROTECTION OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2002

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Enhanced Protection of Our Cultural Heritage (EPOCH), Act of 2002.

The legislation that I am introducing today will increase the maximum penalties for violations of three existing statutes that protect the cultural and archaeological history of the American people, most notably, American Indians. This bill also includes language that will make any attempt to sell Native American human remains a criminal act. The United States Sentencing Commission recently recommended the statutory changes contained in this bill and these changes complement the Commission's strengthening of Federal sentencing guidelines to ensure more stringent penalties for criminals who steal from public and tribal lands. I am pleased that my colleagues, Representatives HAYWORTH and Representative MARK UDALL have joined me in co-sponsoring this important bill.

Looting of cultural remains is not a new problem but it has developed into a professional business. Today, the casual hiker who lifts an arrowhead or a potshard has become less of a problem because of increased awareness about the impact of removing such items. Instead, we are witnessing carefully planned and prepared theft by well-equipped professional looters. Professional looters have devastated individual Indians and tribal communities. These communities can do little but sit by and watch as their culture is erased, site by site as professional looters steal anything that may have value on the black market—including ancestral remains. The lack of severity in the current laws does little to deter these individuals from looting over and over again.

The three statutes that this bill amends currently impose a 5-year maximum sentence,

and each includes a lower maximum for a first offense of the statute and/or a violation of the statute involving property of less than a specified value. This bill would create a 10-year maximum sentence for each statute, while eliminating the lower maximums under ARPA and NAGPRA for first offenses.

Such maximum sentences would be consistent with similar Federal statutes. For example, the 1994 law proscribing museum theft carries a 10-year maximum sentence, as do the general statutes punishing theft and the destruction of government property. Moreover, increasing the maximum sentences will give judges and the Sentencing Commission greater discretion to impose punishments appropriate to the amount of destruction a defendant has done.

Making these changes will enable the Sentencing Commission's recent sentencing guidelines to be fully implemented. The Commission increased sentencing guidelines for cultural heritage crimes, but the statutory maximum penalties contained in current law will prevent judges from issuing sentences in the upper range of the new guidelines. Those new guidelines have the enthusiastic support of the Justice and Interior Departments, the Society

for American Archeology, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, numerous Native American nations, and many others. Congress must take the steps necessary to see that the guidelines take full effect.

The professional looters who pillage the rich cultural heritage of this Nation and its people are committing serious crimes. The artifacts stolen from both tribal and public lands are the legacy of all Americans and should not be robbed and sold for personal gain. Passage of this legislation would demonstrate Congress' commitment to preserving our Nation's history and our cultural heritage. I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation.

I would ask that the text of this legislation be printed in the RECORD.

H.R.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Enhanced Protection of Our Cultural Heritage Act".

SEC. 2. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE CRIMES.

(a) ENHANCED PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.—Section 6(d) of the Archaeological Resources

Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470ee(d)) is amended by striking "not more than \$10,000" and all that follows through the end of the subsection, and inserting "not more than \$100,000, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.".

(b) ENHANCED PENALTY FOR EMBEZZLEMENT AND THEFT FROM INDIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 1163 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "five years" and inserting "10 years".

(c) ENHANCED PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN NATIVE AMERICAN HUMAN REMAINS AND CULTURAL ITEMS.—Section 1170 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting "or attempts to sell, purchase, use for profit, or transport for sale or profit," before "human remains"; and

(B) by striking "or imprisoned not more than 12 months, or both, and in the case of a second or subsequent violation, be fined in accordance with this title, or imprisoned not more than 5 years" and inserting "imprisoned not more than 10 years" and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "imprisoned not more than one year, or both, and the case of a second or subsequent violation, be fined in accordance with this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years" and inserting "imprisoned not more than 10 years."